FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 DECEMBER 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian Offensive — Iraqi military communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced the defeat of a major Iranian offensive on the southern front 24-26 December, claiming that 50,380 Iranians were killed in battles that centered around Umm al-Rasas and other islands in the Shatt al-'Arab. The Iraqi command said its III and VII Corps destroyed 1,016 boats, 422 vehicles, and 8 tanks in a "great harvest" of enemy forces. The radio broadcast an Iraqi commander's statement to journalists that Iraqi troops were able to expel the Iranians from all the footholds they had gained.

However, an Iranian military spokesman cited by IRNA described the Iranian attack, codenamed Karbala IV, as a "limited" offensive aimed at destroying Iraqi troop and artillery positions, adding that Iranian troops returned to their bases after achieving their objectives. Iraq is trying to "make a mountain out of a molehill" in an attempt to boost its troop morale, he asserted. On Iraqi casualties, Tehran radio claimed that over 3,000 Iraqis were killed and some 6,500 were wounded in the Iranian offensive.

In other military developments, Iraqi communiques announced further Iraqi air strikes on the Bakhtaran area 24 December and on maritime targets in the Gulf 26 and 28 December. Iran's claim to have shot down several Iraqi aircraft over the southern battlefronts was denied by an Iraqi spokesman cited by WAKH.

Regarding Iranian manpower requirements, Tehran radio broadcast an appeal by the Revolution Guards Corps for more volunteers to register for military training.

Tehran Explosion — A number of people were injured when ammunition at a Tehran military garrison exploded accidentally 27 December, IRNA reported, quoting "informed sources." Iranian opposition sources in London claimed that over 500 Revolution Guards were killed in the blast, according to KUNA.

Iraqi Opposition — A 4-day conference on solidarity with the Iraqi people was concluded in Tehran 28 December, Tehran radio noted, adding that the meeting was attended by over 400 Iraqi militants. The conferees called for the formation of a military committee to coordinate their activities against the Iraqi regime, IRNA disclosed. Regarding the military situation in Iraqi Kurdistan, Tehran radio claimed that an Iraqi battalion surrendered 28 December to forces of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Attempted Hijack, Crash of Iraqi Airliner

An Iraqi source cited by WAKH stated that Iranian agents of Lebanese nationality were responsible for the 25 December attempt to hijack an Iraqi airliner, which crashed during a forced landing in Saudi Arabia. An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman denied any Iranian involvement in the incident, IRNA noted. Responsibility for the hijacking was claimed by various groups in Beirut including the "Revolutionary Action Organization," which warned of further attacks unless Iraq releases three of its members, according to Beirut radio.

The Saudi authorities had announced the crash at 'Ar'ar Airport in a communique broadcast by Riyadh radio, noting that 62 people were killed, 32 were injured, and 12 escaped unhurt. The survivors included former Jordanian Interior Minister Sulayman 'Arar, who subsequently related to Amman's *Al-Dustur* how the forced landing occurred after hijackers exploded a grenade and exchanged fire with Iraqi guards on the aircraft. AFP noted reports that two Lebanese hijackers survived but were seriously injured.

In the wake of the incident, President Saddam Husayn held a 2-hour meeting with King Fahd during a visit to Saudi Arabia for the minor pilgrimage, Voice of the Masses reported. At the conclusion of his visit the Iraqi leader sent a cable to Fahd affirming that bilateral relations will be strengthened and expressing gratitude for Saudi hospitality, the radio noted.

Lebanon

French Hostage's Release — Following Aurel Cornea's release 24 December, Paris radio broadcast French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's remarks thanking Palestinian officials as well as the Algerian, Syrian, and Lebanese authorities for assisting the release of the French hostage. The "Organization of Revolutionary Justice" had released Cornea as a gesture in response to "changes" in France's policy, according to AFP.

Security — Beirut radio and other local stations reported sporadic Amal-Palestinian clashes over the Christmas period. An Amal Movement statement carried by Beirut radio blamed the DFLP for an attack on Amal personnel in the Al-Biqa' Valley 25 December, noting that six Amal men were killed or wounded when their bus was ambushed. A Libyan diplomat was assassinated in Al-Biqa' the same day, according to Tripoli radio, which broadcast a cable from the DFLP accusing Amal of the killing.

In northern Lebanon, Syrian forces continued to hunt their opponents over Christmas, Beirut radio reported, adding that more than 30 people were killed in clashes east of Tripoli. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said the Syrians have arrested a number of shaykhs, and Voice of Lebanon radio noted that they are trying to track down Hashim Minqarah, a leader of the Islamic Unification Movement (IUM). In a related development in the Syrian capital, Damascus radio reported that IUM leader Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban discussed the Tripoli situation with President Hafiz al-Asad 28 December, adding that Sha'ban condemned the "failed attempt by a certain group" to undermine

Tripoli's security and that he emphasized Syria's "principal role" in maintaining security in the city.

In southern Lebanon, the IDF killed over 10 "terrorists" in a 24 December raid on the village of Maydun, 3 km north of Israel's security zone, Jerusalem radio reported. The attack was directed against members of Hizballah and left-wing Shi'ite organizations.

Israel

Shamir Cleared — The inquiry commission into the killing of bus hijackers in 1984 has concluded that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir did not give any directive to kill the terrorists and that he did not support the falsification of evidence after the event, Jerusalem television reported. The commission rejected former Shin Bet chief Avraham Shalom's claims about Shamir's role, the television said, and Shamir has asked the attorney general to publish the results of the inquiry.

Vanunu Trial — Reporting on the 28 December opening session of Mordekhay Vanunu's trial, Jerusalem radio noted that he pleaded not guilty to charges of espionage and collaborating with the enemy.

Palestinians — *Al-Sha'b* editor Akram Haniyah was deported from Israel 28 December, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that Haniyah was charged with involvement in hostile activities against Israel on behalf of Fatah. Two youths were injured in a clash with IDF soldiers in Ramallah the same day, the radio disclosed.

Egypt

Mubarak Visit to Jordan — During a working visit to Jordan 28 December, President Husni Mubarak and Jordanian King Husayn held talks on the situation in the Arab and Islamic world in preparation for the Islamic summit in Kuwait, an Egyptian official told MENA, adding that the atmosphere was "constructive and amicable."

Relations With Syria — A "ranking Syrian envoy" recently made a secret visit to Cairo during which the two countries agreed to halt their slanderous media exchanges, according to a 26 December *Al-Qabas* report cited by KUNA.

Protests in Asyut — AFP cited Egyptian press reports that 124 members of "extremist religious organizations" were arrested in Asyut 26 December as antiriot police used teargas to disperse fundamentalist demonstrators who disrupted Friday prayers.

Libya

Chadian Conflict — Libyan troops captured Zoauar oasis from Chadian forces 28-29 December, according to "reliable" sources cited by AFP. Earlier, Chadian sources in Paris stated that Chadian forces repulsed Libyan attacks over Christmas, killing 500 Libyans and downing 3 planes, the agency reported. AFP also noted that Chadian Government troops had arrived from the south to reinforce Goukouni Oueddei supporters. In Libya, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio reported that the Chadian "masses" sent Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi a message hailing GUNT's "splendid victory" over the "remnants of mutineer Habre." The Foreign Liaison Bureau summoned the French ambassador to protest France's "policy of hostile escalation" in Chad and to warn of its potentially serious consequences, Tripoli radio disclosed 24 December.

PLO Office — The PLO reopened its office in Tripoli, Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio announced 25 December.

Internal Issues — In 27 December remarks to General People's Congress officials cited by Voice of Greater Arab Homeland, Al-Qadhdhafi declared that those who refuse to exercise the people's power by not attending the basic people's congress sessions will lose their civil rights. He also stressed the importance of the people's defense committees in the consolidation of the people's authority.

Sudan

Sudan Air resumed its Khartoum-Juba passenger flights 27 December, SUNA reported, adding that cargo flights began last week. The flights had been suspended after the SPLA downed a civilian plane 16 August.

Iran-Pakistan

Tehran radio reported that an Iranian naval officer was kidnapped and murdered in Karachi 25 December, asserting that "agents of global arrogance" were responsible.

Iranian and Pakistani officials began discussions the same day in Tehran on a possible exchange of Iranian oil for Pakistani goods, the radio noted.

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KUWAIT

Paper Cites PLO Aid in French Hostage Release

NC271359 Paris AFP in English 1343 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 27 (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat and his number two Salah Khalaf "directly supervised" the release from Lebanon of French hostage Aurel Cornea on Wednesday, the Kuwaiti daily *Al-Qabas* said Saturday.

Quoting informed sources, the paper said the two men had played an "essential" role in Mr. Cornea's release by the shadowy Islamic fundamentalist Organisation for Revolutionary Justice (ORJ).

French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac publicly thanked "Palestinian leaders" for their part in freeing Mr. Cornea, a sound man for the French state-owned channel Antenne 2. French Security Minister Robert Pandraud said those leaders belonged to the PLO.

Al-Qabas quoted an unnamed leading Palestinian, who said the PLO "was determined to continue its efforts to secure the freedom" of French hostages and that it was prepared to work for the freedom of U.S. and other western hostages if asked.

Al-Qabas said three factors had contributed to the release of Mr. Cornea — co-operation between the PLO and all-important Algerian negotiators, historical links between the PLO mainstream group Fatah and the Moslem fundamentalist Hizballah (Party of God) in Lebanon, and secret contacts between a Palestinian leader and Iranian officials.

The paper said such Iranian officials had influence with kidnappers, who did not want to damage relations with Fatah, and named Iran's minister of the Revolutionary Guard, Mohsen Rafiqdust.

Meanwhile a Palestinian source in Amman said the PLO was discussing with Omani authorities the possibility of setting up an office in Muscat.

PLO Reopens Tripoli Office; Delegation To Visit

JN251711 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] The PLO office in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, has been reopened after Brother Sulayman al-Shurafa, the PLO representative in Libya, took charge of it. The newspaper *Al-Ittihad* cited Arab diplomatic sources as saying that the return of the PLO representative to Libya crowns recent intensive Palestinian-Libyan contacts and Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's stand on the camps war, which helped the resumption of normal relations with the PLO. A high-ranking Palestinian delegation is expected to pay an imminent visit to Libya at the invitation of the Libyan leadership.

Arab League Begins Efforts To Settle Camps War

LD252148 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Excerpt] It has been learned this evening from an Arab diplomatic source in Tunis that the ministerial committee of the Arab League, entrusted with [words indistinct] the camps war, has begun contacts with Lebanese and Syrian authorities to end the fighting around Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon between defenders of these camps and Shi'ite Amal forces.

The committee, which was set up by the recent emergency Arab League meeting, has sent messages to the Lebanese and Syrian authorities in the hope that these authorities may be able to contribute to facilitating the committee's mission and not as parties to the current conflict. However, the committee has not yet received any replies from these authorities regarding a request to go to Beirut to make contacts with the conflicting parties.

The source said that the committee will hold a meeting on 3 January in Tunis to review the results of its contacts with the parties to the conflict and determine an action plan for the next stage of its activities before the resumption of the Arab League council meeting on 11 January for the third time since its first meeting on 8 December. [passage omitted]

Klibi Meets With Qaddumi

LD270912 Kuwait KUNA in English 0803 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Tunis, Dec 27 (KUNA) — Secretary General of the Arab League Chadli Klibi, met here last night with head of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Political Department Faruq Qaddumi.

Qaddumi said they discussed Palestinian affairs, particularly the camps war in Lebanon and efforts made by the league to end the war.

The role of the ministerial committee formed by the league council in its latest extraordinary meeting to solve the crisis, was later reviewed, the Palestinian official added.

Qaddumi expressed hope for an agreement to hold an Arab summit in the near future pointing out that talks during the meeting tackled this issue.

Qaddumi said he briefed Klibi on the outcome of his recent tours and the European countries' stance towards the Palestinian cause especially the European Parliament resolution that supported an independent Palestinian state.

Draft Agreement Reached

JN261453 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 24 Dec 86 p 9

[Text] Damascus — No meetings were held on the camps war in Damascus yesterday pending the return of Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, assistant secretary general of the DFLP, and 'Abd Al-rahim

Malluh, a PFLP official, from Sidon, the capital of southern Lebanon. The two officials were entrusted by the Lebanese and Palestinian parties and the Libyan and Iranian mediators with holding contacts with the pro-'Arafat Fatah leadership to inform them of the aforementioned parties' agreement on exerting pressure on the organization to force it to withdraw its forces from Maghdushah and to observe the cease-fire agreement.

George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, has revealed to *Al-Ittihad* that an agreement was reached on the following four points, which were proposed by the Lebanese nationalist parties and forces:

1. The issuance of a political statement by the Lebanese nationalist parties with the aim of exposing 'Arafat and portraying him as the one who impedes the implementation of the agreement.
2. The issuance of a joint statement by the nationalist parties and the Palestinian factions that are now meeting in Damascus with the aim of exposing 'Arafat's loyalists. The signatories to the joint statement will also pledge to adhere to a unified Palestinian-Lebanese stand toward the party which violates theagreement.
3. Organizing political, information, and mass campaigns to force a peaceful withdrawal of 'Arafat's loyalists from Maghdushah.
4. Forming a joint Lebanese nationalist-Palestinian military force with the participation of all parties, including the Islamic parties and forces, and precisely specifying its duties to help implement the agreement and confront the party that prevents the implementation of the agreement be it Palestinian or Lebanese.

Some informed Palestinian sources in Damascus believe the Amal Movement's agreement on these points is the key factor that may contribute toward implementing the Iranian initiative. According to observers, this will lead to a temporary truce that may endure for a while, pending the arrival of the Arab good offices committee that was asked by the Arab League to find a solution to the camps war in Lebanon and the results of its mission.

PNSF, DFLP, Abu Nidal Hit Amal

JN262031 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] The PNSF, the DFLP, and the Abu Nidal group have distributed a joint statement in Beirut in which they condemned the Amal Movement's negative stand toward the search for a solution to the camps war and Amal's rejection of the initatives to end the bloodshed, particularly the 10-point plan prepared by Syria and Libya on which all of the Palestinian factions agreed.

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister Confirms ICO Meeting Attendance

LD271204 Kuwait KUNA in English 1143 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Kuwait 27 Dec (KUNA) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir said today that all ICO Islamic member-countries had agreed to attend the fifth Islamic summit due to be held in Kuwait on 26 January.

In a statement to newsmen, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir voiced optimism that the conference will be held on schedule and with the presence of all Muslim leaders. He further said: "The problems of the Islamic world are not simple, and if they are not resolved at this summit conference at this level and momentum, then complications will increase and they will be difficult to resolve at any other level."

Sabah al-Ahmad Receives Cuban Official, Ambassador

LD241855 Kuwait KUNA in English 1509 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 24 (KUNA) — Cuban Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Giraldo Mazola, today handed Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad a message from Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca.

Mazola was accompanied by Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Majid al-Shahin and the Cuban ambassador here.

Mazola, who is stopping here enroute Aden and Damascus, told reporters he exchanged views with Al-Shahin on means of developing relations between their two countries and described standing relations as "friendly and progressed rapidly to become on a positive par."

He said relations are not restricted to political dealings but are based on mutual cooperation in several domains. Cuba, added Mazola, is eager to maintain a constant development in relations, particularly with developing countries, with a view to set a model for relations among developing countries.

The Cuban undersecretary pointed out that a number of Cuban physicians were serving in Kuwait together with a number of consultants in the field of sports. He said several fields for developing and expanding relations existed.

He recalled as well that a number of Kuwaiti formative artists recently visited Cuba to participate in the second Havana bienale.

Kuwait and Cuba have earlier concluded a cultural agreement.

Mazola said that his talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart centered on the international situation, noting that the two sides' views were identical on most issues including the struggle for peace, mutual respect among nations, preserving independence and sovereignty of states and rejecting violence in international relations.

He noted that Al-Shahin briefed him on the efforts exerted by Kuwait to ensure the suicess of the fifth Islamic Summit Conference scheduled to convene here next month and Kuwait's determination to reach political settlements for regional conflicts in the area.

He pointed out that Cuba wishes all success for Kuwait's efforts to achieve peace in the region, to hasten a positive impact on the development process of the peoples in the region.

On the Iraq-Iran war Mazola said no peace-loving country will approve continuation of the ongoing Gulf War.

He added when the Gulf War broke out, the Cuban foreign minister devoted all his time as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, to find a just settlement for the war through political means.

The Cuban foreign undersecretary recalled Cuban leader Fidel Castro's speech, before the seventh nonaligned summit in Harare, last August in which he deplored the failure of all attempts to end the conflict.

Mazola called for continuation of efforts to reach a just settlement to the Iraq-Iran War.

He stressed that the continuation of the war caused human and material losses in addition to the danger of its expansion which may give the Americans a larger footing in the area.

Mazola announced that his country will continue efforts to find a settlement to the seven-year-old Gulf War and denied that Cuba had supplied Iran with weapons.

The Cuban official stressed his country's support to Arab issues particularly the Palestinian cause pointing out that this problem represents the core of the Middle East conflict.

He said his country supports the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, the establishment of an independent state and recognize the Palestinian Liberation Organization as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

On the international peace conference on the Middle East, he said Cuba and all peace-loving states support the convening of such a conference for a comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian problem.

Husaynun Delivers Al-'Attas Message to Amir

LD252306 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Brother Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy premier and minister of energy and minerals, yesterday delivered a letter on bilateral relations and the situation in the Arab and international arenas from Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Peoples Supreme Council to his brother, His Royal Highness al-Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, ruler of the state of Kuwait, when the latter received Brother Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun.

During the meeting, Brother Husaynun expressed gratitude to the ruler, government, and people of Kuwait for their fraternal aid to Democratic Yemen and for the care taken of the Yemeni community in Kuwait. He expressed our country's satisfaction at Kuwait's role in the Arab, Islamic, and international arenas. He referred to the importance of joint action to render successful the Islamic summit to be held in Kuwait next January.

For his part, His Royal Highness al-Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah expressed satisfaction at the development of relations between the two countries in all fields. He stressed that Kuwait would continue to provide support, facilities, and care for the Yemenis now living in their second country, Kuwait, as an embodiment of the historic ties linking the two fraternal peoples.

Meanwhile, in the morning of the same day, Brother Husaynun met his brother Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the crown prince and chairman of the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers, to whom he delivered a letter concerning the future development of relations between the two countries from his Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Brother Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy premier and minister of energy and minerals yesterday morning met his Brother 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti Oil Minister, with whom he discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and ways of developing them.

PDRY

YSP Secretary General Receives Cuba's Risquet

EA241200 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 23 Dec 86

[Text] YSP Central Committee Secretary General Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid received the Cuban Communist Party delegation currently visiting the PDRY led by Comrade Jorge Risquet, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee in his office this morning. During the meeting, they discussed relations between the YSP and the Cuban Communist Party and ways of developing and strengthening them. They also discussed the latest developments in the international area as well as other issues of common interest.

During the meeting, the secretary general reviewed the measures taken by the Political Bureau and the Central Committee to deal with the effects of the 13 January abortive coup conspiracy, the reconstruction of the capital, the stabilization of the situation, and restoration of security and stability in all parts of the country. He expressed his deep appreciation at the development of the warm relations linking the parties and peoples of the two friendly countries on the basis of the common struggle against imperialism, zionism, and reaction and for peace and progress. He expressed high appreciation of Cuba's solidarity with the PDRY and our people's struggle to build a new life under the leadership of the YSP and to overcome all the conspiracies being hatched against our nationalist regime.

For his part, Comrade Risquet expressed high appreciation of the peaceful policies of the PDRY to bring about security and stability in the region and the measures being taken to reconstruct the capital, as well as the achievements of Democratic Yemen. He stressed Cuba's solidarity with the struggle of our people to build a new life.

The meeting was attended by Brothers Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee: Sa'id Askari 'Abdallah, member of the Central Committee and deputy secretary of the Central Committee: Dr Salih Muhsin, director of the Secretary General's office: and Muhammad 'Abd al-Rahman, PDRY ambassador to Cuba.

Risquet Ends Visit

EA252244 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] The Cuban Communist Party delegation led by Comrade Jorge Risquet, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, left Aden this afternoon after a visit to our country lasting several days, during which he met a number of officials in the party and state leadership. He also held party talks culminating in the signing of a protocol on party cooperation for the coming years between the YSP and Cuban CP.

Comrade Jorge Risquet made a statement to ANA *[Aden News Agency]* in which he said: I leave Democratic Yemen with full confidence in progress of the revolutionary process in the country. He expressed his satisfaction at our people's overcoming the aftermath of the 13 January events. He praised the rallying of the people to the party and their steadfastness in overcoming the aftermath of the events. He also praised our country's achievements in the various fields [words indistinct] for the benefit of the two friendly countries and parties.

He was seen off at the airport by Comrades Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee: Muhammad Haydarah Masdus, candidate member of the Political Bureau and first secretary of the party organization committee in the Lahj governorate: and Sa'id Askari 'Abdallah, member of the Central Committee and deputy secretary of the Central Committee, in addition to a number of other officials and the Cuban ambassador in Aden.

SAUDI ARABIA

King 'Abd al-'Aziz Receives Iraqi President

LD281953 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1855 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Al-Ahsa', 28 December (SPA) — His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn arrived in Al-Ahsa' today for a visit to the Kingdom. King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, was at the airport to welcome him. Also there to welcome him were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; and Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd

al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general. [passage omitted]

After a brief rest in the royal lounge at the airport the custodian of the two holy mosques and the Iraqi president held a bilateral meeting.

The Iraqi president then left Al-Ahsa'. King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, was there to see him off at the airport. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi president had arrived at Jeddah Airport at 1540 yesterday and was welcomed on arrival by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud ibn 'Abd al-Muhsin, deputy governor of Mecca region; Royal protocol department Chief His Excellency Muhammad 'Abd al-Rahman al-Shaykh; the Iraqi consul in the Kingdom, Engineer Sami Maqbul, director of the King 'Abd al-'Aziz Airport in Jeddah, and a number of senior military and civilian officials.

The Iraqi president and the accompanying delegation performed the minor pilgrimage accompanied by Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. His excellency was welcomed at the entrance of the holy mosque by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud ibn 'Abd al-Muhsin and a number of military and civilian officials.

The Iraqi president left Jeddah at 1015 today for Al-Madinah accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud ibn 'Abd al-Muhsin, deputy governor of Mecca region.

On arrival at al-Madinah Airport his excellency was welcomed by Al-Madinah Deputy Governor His Excellency Sa'd Nasir al-Sudayri, the mayor of Al-Madinah, the commander of the city of Al-Madinah, the chief of police of Al-Madinah, and a number of military and civilian officials. His excellency visited the holy mosque of the prophet and had the honor of praying there.

His excellency then left the holy mosque of the prophet for Al-Madinah Airport, where he was seen off by Al-Madinah Deputy Governor His Excellency Sa'ud Nasir al-Sudayri. [passage omitted]

President Saddam Husayn was accompanied on this visit by 'Issat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Iraqi RCC; Minister of Culture and Information Latif Nusayyif Jasim; Secretary to the President Hamid Hammadi; and Air Lieutenant General Hamid Sha'ban, commander of the Iraqi Air Force and Air Defense.

Defense Ministry Communique on Iraqi Plane Crash

LD251846 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1835 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] The Ministry of Defence and Aviation released a communique today in which it announces the burning of an Iraqi Boeing 737 as it was attempting a forced landing in the 'Ar'ar airport. Here is the text of the communique:

While en route from Baghdad to Amman today, Thursday, 24.4.1407 Hegire, an Iraqi Boeing 737, Flight 163, in Saudi airspace, attempted at about 1230 to undertake a forced landing 'Ar'ar airport, but it failed to do so and crashed on the ground about 800 meters from the runway. This resulted in the burning of the aircraft.

The airport authorities immediately offered the necessary assistance in such cases in cooperation with government quarters in the region, sending mediacl evacuation airplanes immediately.

The accident resulted in the death of 62 passengers out of 91 passengers, in addition to 15 crewmen and a security man, while 12 passengers escaped uninjured. Those injured — 32 — have been taken to a hospital for medical treatment prior to their transportation to Baghdad at the request of the Iraqi authorities. Most of the injuries are not serious.

In regretting this accident, the Ministry of Defense and Aviation offers condolences to the relatives of the dead, praying to almighty God to bless their souls and to bestow solace and forbearance on their relatives.

Source Denies Group's Claims

LD271155 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1105 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 27 Dec (SPA) — Commenting on what was carried by both AFP *[Agence France-Presse]* and AP *[Associated Press]* quoting the so-called Revolutionary Islamic Movement's communique in Beirut last night, that the Saudi Air Force had threatened to shoot down the Iraqi airliner after it was taken over by the hijackers, which forced it to land in 'Ar'ar and permitted it to be stormed, and so forth, as was reported in the communique of this so-called movement, a responsible Saudi source told SPA:

Political and information sources, like us, have received with contempt and disapproval the triviality and lies contained in the aforementioned communique. How could it be conceivable for a reasonable man that Saudi authorities could have stormed a plane that had already crashed and caught fire, at a time when all the plane's survivors have affirmed the humanitarian actions dictated by Islamic duty and immediately undertaken by the Saudi authorities. This enabled them, with the help of God, to save the lives of 44 passengers, who have recorded their reports to the official authorities in their respective countries, with all the details of the story of the Iraqi airplane from the moment of its hijack until the time it crashed and caught fire. [passage omitted]

The source concluded his statement saying: If two major news agencies had not carried this groundless communique, it would not have been necessary to mention it at all.

King Fahd Receives Message From PDRY's Al-'Attas

EA290943 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Brother Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, member of the Political Bureau, deputy premier and minister of energy and minerals, has delivered a letter from Brother Haydar Abu Bakr Al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the

Presidium of the People's Supreme Council, to his brother his Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The letter was received by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of defense and aviation and the inspector general of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, when he received Brother Salih abu Bakr ibn Husaynun at his office this afternoon.

During the meeting there was a review of the fraternal bilateral relations and ways of developing them for the benefit of the two fraternal countries and peoples. There was also a review of the current situation in the Arab and international arenas. The meeting was attended by Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah al-Kaf, charge d'affaires of our embassy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Ad-Din Nazir Confirmed as Oil Minister

LD241647 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1610 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Dammam, 24 Dec (SPA) — A royal decree was issued appointing Hisham Muhyi ad-Din Nazir as minister of petroleum and mineral resources and also entrusting him with the functions of planning minister.

YAR

President Salih Receives Libyan Official

JN250659 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received Brother Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the 1 September Revolution Command Council of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, in his office this morning. During the meeting, they discussed relations between the two revolutions, a number of issues of mutual concern, the situation in Arab and Islamic arenas, and ways to promote Arab solidarity and close ranks to confront the dangers posed to the Arab and Islamic nation.

Brother Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi expressed his happiness and that of the accompanying delegation in participating in our country's celebrations of the inauguration of the great Ma'rib Dam, which remains an immortal symbol of Arab civilization and whose inauguration constitutes a great event in the lives of the Yemeni people. He praised our country's achievements in all fields under the leadership of Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in the march of the immortal 26 September Revolution.

SABA' has learned that the brother leader president has asked Brother Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi to convey a message to his Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September Revolution.

The meeting was attended by Brother Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and member of the Standing Committee.

Brother Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi and his delegation left Sanaa this afternoon following a visit to our country during which he participated in the inauguration of the great Ma'rib Dam. He also conveyed a written message to the leader president from his Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. In a predeparture statement to SABA', Major Al-Humaydi expressed happiness at deputizing for Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in the celebrations of inaugurating the great Ma'rib Dam. He pointed out that he held several meetings with officials, headed by leader President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and discussed with them ways to bolster brotherly relations between the two revolutions and fraternal peoples.

He conveyed the fraternal Libyan people's congratulations to our Yemeni people on this great achievement and for all achievements realized thanks to the immortal 26 September Revolution and to the Yemeni will and vigor. He said history is repeating itself in Yemen and that this makes us all happy and proud. He stressed the strength of historical, militant, and revolutionary relations between the two fraternal peoples and countries.

Concluding his statement, Brother Maj al-Humaydi expressed his thanks and appreciation for our country — leadership, government, and people — for the warm welcome and hospitality. He explained he carried a reply message from Brother President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to his Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

He was seen off by Brothers Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and member of the Standing Committee; Lieutenant Colonel 'Abdallah Daris, adviser to the commander in chief; Lieutenant Colonel 'Ali Salah, deputy chief of staff for military affairs and member of the Standing Committee; Colonel Muhammad al-Shami, under secretary of the Interior Ministry for financial and administrative affairs; a number of members of the Standing Committee and the General People's Congress; an envoy from the president's office for protocol; and the director of the Libyan Brotherhood office in Sanaa.

Mubarak, Saddam Husayn Discuss Area Situation

NC261741 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 26 Dec (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak telephoned Iraqi President Saddam Husayn this evening.

The two presidents exchanged views on a number of regional issues.

President Mubarak also received assurances that the military situation on the Iraqi front is stable.

Kuwaiti Paper Reports Secret Talks With Syria

LD261008 Kuwait KUNA in English 0816 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 26 (KUNA) — A ranking Syrian envoy visited Cairo secretly last week and held extensive talks with Egyptian officials amid signs that Syria and Egypt were trying to heal a nine-year-old political rift between them, Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-QABAS* reported Friday.

The 36-hour visit of the unnamed Syrian official followed several contacts between Cairo and Damascus and a meeting in a European capital between officials from the two countries, *AL-QABAS* said in a Cairo-datelined dispatch quoting "a well-informed political source".

The Egyptian-Syrian talks, which were held in complete secrecy, failed to make the positions of the two sides less discordant on key political issues, yet the two countries agreed to halt slanderous media exchanges, according to the Kuwaiti newspaper.

By halting the war of words, Cairo and Damascus hoped to avert high tension when top-level delegations from both capitals meet during a month from now, the source told the paper.

He noted that in the unannounced talks, Syria and Egypt remained wide apart on such thorny issues as the Egyptian-Israeli Camp David accords, Syria's support for Iran against Iraq in the Gulf war and the Syrian-Palestinian relations in Lebanon.

Though key differences remained outstanding the two sides avoided any escalation and left the door "ajar" for further reconciliation bids, the source added.

Libyan 'Aggression' Against Chad Condemned

NC251236 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 25 Dec (MENA) — Egypt has renewed its condemnation of Libya's acts of aggression against northern Chad, which constitute a flagrant violation of the security and territorial integrity of a fraternal African state.

A Foreign Ministry official noted today that Egypt is following with great concern reports of the Libyan acts of aggression, which are aimed at heightening tension and causing instability in the region. He said that Egypt reiterates its support for the Chadian people and their legitimate government in their quest for national unity and territorial sovereignty.

Iran Ties Prisoners' Release to Arms Sales

PM241603 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 Dec 86 p 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Iran Makes Egyptian Prisoners' Release Conditional on Cessation of Arms Supplies To Iraq"]

[Text] *AL-WAFD* has learned from important diplomatic sources that Iran has made the release of the Egyptian prisoners currently held in Iranian prisons conditional to the cessation of Egypt's supplying arms and ammunition supplies to Iraq. Iran has also demanded a letter from Egypt's political leadership confirming the suspension of such arms sales.

The Egyptian Government has had contacts with the United Nations to secure the release of Egyptian prisoners in Iran. Egypt also asked some Asian countries which have close relations with Iran to mediate with the Iranian Government for the release of the prisoners, who are being subjected to torture in the Iranian prisons.

AL-WAFD has learned that Iraq has expressed readiness to pay financial compensation for the Egyptian prisoners in Iran and to the families of the Egyptian volunteers killed in the war.

Mubarak Departs for Amman Visit 28 Dec

NC280914 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak and his wife left Cairo for Amman this morning. He will hold talks with King Husayn of Jordan as part of the constant consultations between the two countries.

Accompanying President Mubarak is a delegation that includes Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

President Mubarak was seen off at Cairo Airport by People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub; Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and food security; Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif; and Governor of Cairo Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib.

Returns From 2-Day Visit

NC291129 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, accompanied by his wife and the members of his delegation, returned home at midday today, following a 2-day visit to Jordan that included talks with his brother King Husayn. The president was met at the airport by Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and food production, and by Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, the governor of Cairo.

Jordan's Al-Masri Confers With Al-Majid 24 Dec

NC241406 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA) — Egyptian-Jordanian talks began at the Foreign Ministry at 1400 today. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri led their countries' delegations to the talks. Egypt was also represented by Ambassador Ahmad Hatatah, assistant foreign minister; Nuhad Riyad, head of the Arabic Department; Hasan Shash, head of the Cultural Department; and Hassan al-'Ibadi and Muhammad al-Rubi. The Jordanian delegation accompanying Foreign Minister al-Masri represented the Jordanian side.

Meets Mubarak

JN241638 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Alexandria, 24 Dec (PETRA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri at the Al-Muntada Palace in Alexandria.

In a statement to the PETRA correspondent in Cairo after his meeting with Mubarak, Al-Masri said Mubarak paid tribute to the efforts being exerted by King Husayn to heal Arab rifts, unify Arab positions, and rally Arab efforts to face the dangers threatening them. He also expressed his pride in the development of the bilateral relations binding the two fraternal countries.

Al-Masri indicated that during the meeting, which was attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the director of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department, and Hasan Hamami, the Jordanian ambassador in Cairo, the two sides reviewed all issues of common interest and the latest developments in the Arab arena.

The official talks between the two countries' foreign ministers began in Cairo this afternoon. At the conclusion of the first round of talks, Al-Masri said that it was characterized as usual by frankness and an exchange of opinions on all issues of common interest to both countries. He added that the strong and improving bilateral relations were reviewed, pointing out that the two sides will continue their meetings tomorrow.

Notes 'Cordiality' of Talks

NC241414 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA) — Following a round of Egyptian-Jordanian talks this afternoon, Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri said that cordiality and openness marked the talks, and that this is also true of his meeting with President Husni Mubarak this morning. On both occasions, Al-Masri said, issues of common concern and bilateral ties were discussed. He added that the talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid will resume tomorrow morning.

For his part, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that the meeting with the Jordanians was very useful. Voicing his pleasure at Al-Masri's visit, 'Abd al-Majid said he had been looking forward to it. He noted that they will meet again tomorrow to discuss issues of concern to both countries.

Talks With Al-Majid Resume

NC250943 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0924 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 25 Dec (MENA) — Bilateral talks with Jordan resumed at the Foreign Ministry today. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, is leading the Egyptian delegation while the Jordanian side is led by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

The conferees discussed issues of interest to both countries, particularly the Arab situation, Middle East developments, the Iraq-Iran war, and progress on peace issues, including an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

Meets Sidqi

NC251338 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi met in his office today with Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri. The meeting was also attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. After the meeting Al-Masri said he and Sidqi had reviewed bilateral relations. He added: We appreciate the advanced level of these relations, and we hope Arab countries will follow this excellent example in their relations with each other.

Asked about the international conference proposed to achieve peace in the Middle East, Al-Masri said: Both Egypt and Jordan insist on holding this conference, regardless of obstacles encountered, and nothing will prevent our continuing efforts in this respect.

Regarding economic relations between Egypt and Jordan, Al-Masri said that the Egyptian-Jordanian (?company) for investment represents the core of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. He added that the next session of the Egyptian-Jordanian higher committee will be in Amman next April.

Concludes Visit

NC261636 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 Dec (MENA) — Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri left Cairo for home this afternoon following a 4-day visit to Egypt. The visit included meetings with President Husni Mubarak and other senior Egyptian officials.

In a predeparture statement, Al-Masri described his consultations in Cairo as useful and fruitful and noted that there was complete agreement on all issues discussed. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the seizure of an Iraqi passenger plane and its destruction at 'Ar'ar Airport in Saudi Arabia yesterday, Al-Masri said that his country, like others, rejects and condemns

such acts of terrorism.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, was at the airport to see off his Jordanian counterpart. He declared that Egypt denounces all forms of terrorism, as they neither serve nor promote the cause of peace in the Arab world. He also expressed Egypt's regret that innocent lives were lost in this terrorist action.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid pointed out that he will meet tomorrow with Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi, the Sudanese deputy prime minister and foreign minister who is now in Cairo. He explained that they will review current conditions in the Arab world, as well as Egyptian-Sudanese relations and ways of strengthening them in all fields.

Soviet Cooperative Council Official Arrives

NC230945 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 23 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA) — Soviet Deputy Prime Minister (Mikhail Petrovich Trunov), chairman of the higher council for cooperatives [titles as received], arrived in Cairo from Moscow this morning for a visit of several days.

The Soviet official will hold talks on bolstering cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union in the field of cooperatives.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC280628 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2315 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA) — The Soviet economic cooperatives delegation led by (Mikhail Petrovich Trunov), deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Soviet Cooperatives Council [titles as received], left Cairo today at the end of a 1-week visit. During their stay, the members of the delegation held talks with Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and food security, which focused on the establishment of joint projects dealing with agro-industrialization in Egypt. A team has been formed to study the implementation of such projects by preparing an addendum to develop the protocol on cooperation signed by the two countries last year. The talks also dealt with programs to provide training on the management that would utilize the expertise of Soviet cooperatives.

Saudi Prince Faysal Concludes 7-Day Visit

NC261905 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 26 Dec (MENA) — Prince Faysal ibn Fahd, chairman of youth affairs in Saudi Arabia and head of the Arab Soccer Federation, left Cairo this afternoon at the end of a 1-week visit to Egypt. He was received by President Mubarak during his stay, and presided over the recent meetings of the Arab Soccer Federation's General Assembly.

Israel's Tamir Arrives in Cairo 28 Dec

NC282022 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1933 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA) — Avraham Tamir, Israeli Foreign Ministry director general, arrived in Cairo tonight for a 2-day visit.

Tamir was met at the airport by Counsellor Faruq Ra'fat, Foreign Ministry director of protocol, and Israeli Ambassador Moshe Sason.

Sudan's Al-Hindi, Al-Majid Discuss Relations

NC271409 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi, Sudanese deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, who is currently visiting Cairo.

Al-Majid stated that they discussed ways of bolstering and strengthening the distinguished bilateral relations in various fields, so as to reflect the close ties between the two peoples.

Al-Majid added that they also reviewed regional issues, efforts being made to achieve Arab solidarity and give impetus to the peace process in the Middle East, and the coordination of the two countries' positions for the fifth Islamic summit due to open in Kuwait on 26 January.

Al-Hindi Meets Mubarak

NC271753 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak met this afternoon with Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi, Sudan's deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, was also present. Al-Hindi arrived in Cairo on Wednesday for a visit scheduled to last several days.

Al-Hindi Ends Visit, Departs

NC282157 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2147 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA) — Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi, Sudan's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo tonight after a 5-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

During his visit Al-Hindi held discussions with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and other senior officials on bolstering the fraternal relations between Egypt and Sudan.

Ghali Meets African Presidents, ANC's Tambo

NC251358 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] The presidents of Tanzania, Mozambique, and Botswana, who are participating in the Frontline States' summit in Lusaka, have received Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, who is on an official visit to Zambia. The three heads of state have asked Ghali to convey messages to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Ghali had a number of meetings before concluding his visit to Zambia. He met with the Zambian foreign minister and gave him a message from President Mubarak for President Kaunda. He also discussed cultural cooperation with the Zambian minister for higher education.

Ghali also met with Oliver Tambo, chairman of the African National Congress [ANC]. During this meeting Egypt reaffirmed its support to the ANC and its struggle to end apartheid in Africa. He also conveyed to Tambo a message of support and solidarity from President Mubarak, stressing that Egypt will spare no effort to bring an end to apartheid and to establish democracy and social justice in South Africa.

Kuwaiti Envoy Arrives With Message for Mubarak

NC290923 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA) — 'Abd al-Rahman Salim al-'Atiqi, advisor to Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, arrived in Cairo this morning on an official visit to Egypt. During his stay he will deliver a message to President Husni Mubarak from the amir.

Al-'Atiqi was greeted at Cairo Airport by Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development.

AL-AHRAM Reports Demonstration in Asyut

NC271012 Paris AFP in English 0959 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, Dec 27 (AFP) — Security forces used teargas and cudgels to disperse Moslem fundamentalist demonstrators at Asyut, in upper Egypt, after Friday prayers, the *AL-AHRAM* newspaper reported on Saturday.

The demonstrators destroyed several cars, using sticks and iron rods, the paper said. Several anti-riot police and demonstrators were injured and an unspecified number arrested, it added.

According to the paper, the trouble began when Moslem fundamentalists occupied the Al-Rahmah Mosque and barred entrance to anyone who did not belong to extremist organisations. They also prevented the imam, appointed by the government, from saying Friday prayers.

When they emerged from the mosque after prayers, the extremists were joined by members of the congregation of the nearby Al-Jam'iyah al-Shar'iyah Mosque, where one person was killed and 48 arrested in similar violent incidents following Friday prayers on October 31.

According to the Interior Ministry, "members of extremist associations tried to seize the microphone from the preacher to spread their fanatical ideas and incite the population to oppose law and order".

They clashed with members of the congregation and there were brawls inside and outside the mosque, which only ended with the intervention of the security forces.

According to *AL-AHRAM*, the imam of Al-Jam'iyah al-Shar'iyah recently informed the authorities that "extremist elements" had prevented him from carrying out his religious duties. The authorities immediately arrested officials of extremist organisations, who, the paper said, had "urged other members of these movements to occupy the mosque on Friday and try to impose their ideas on the faithful."

Asyut, 380 kms (240 miles) south of Cairo, is considered the centre of a radical reform movement.

12 Injured, 124 Arrested

NC291259 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] The Cairo newspaper *AL-AKHBAR*, mouthpiece of the opposition Egyptian Socialist Liberal Party, [as heard] reports today that 200 people have been questioned following Friday's clashes in Asyut between police and Muslim fundamentalists. The paper adds that the police opened fire and used tear gas, which touched off a fire in a lumberyard.

The pro-government paper *AL-AHRAM* notes that 124 people were arrested during these incidents and that 122 were students. Four police officers, a soldier, and seven other students were injured.

Two Iranian 'Agents' Behind Hijacking

JN260639 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0555 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Dec (WAKH) — It was announced here tonight that two of the Iranian regime's agents of Lebanese nationality attempted to hijack an Iraqi Airways plane 55 minutes after its takeoff from Saddam International Airport on a flight to Amman this afternoon. A responsible Iraqi source told INA that one of the two criminal agents, who boarded the plane from the airport's transit lounge after their arrival in Baghdad from Yugoslavia, threw a bomb toward the tail end of the plane but it did not explode. The security men in charge of protecting the plane fired at him and killed him instantly.

The source added that the second criminal hurled another bomb at the front passenger cabin. It exploded and the front part of the plane caught fire. The security men hastened to apprehend him but he was killed when the plane's captain attempted a forced landing in the 'Ar'ar area of Saudi Arabia.

The crash of the plane, which was carrying 91 passengers, led to the martyrdom of 59 passengers and the injury of 32 others. The responsible source thanked Saudi Arabia for its fraternal cooperation and for the quick aid it extended to the injured passengers.

Mitterrand, Chirac Send Cables

JN271847 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has received the following cables from French President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac in which they deplore the aggression against the Iraqi airways plane:

Respected President Saddam Husayn, I have learned about the incident to which one of the Iraqi Airways plane was exposed. I would like to express to you in my own name and on behalf of the French people my pain and sympathy. Please convey my condolences to the families of the victims.

[Signed] Francois Mitterrand, president of the French Republic

Respected President Saddam Husayn, I would like to express to you my prfound shock at the hijacking of the Iraqi Airways plane and convey to you the sentiments of sympathy and solidarity which I harbor for you personally and for the Iraqi people, especially the families of the victims.

I would like to affirm to you that France, which vehemently denounces all kinds of air piracy, strongly condemns this terrorist act which led to the deaths of dozens of innocent people. While expressing my sorrow, please accept my appreciation and personal greetings.

[Signed] Jacques Chirac, prime minister of France

Hijack Death Toll Updated

JN290735 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Yesterday INA listed the victims of the hijacked Iraqi airliner which crashed while trying to land at 'Ar'ar airport in northern Saudi Arabia on Thursday. According to this list, 67 [as heard] persons were killed in the incident. These included 23 Iraqis, 22 Sudanese, 14 Egyptians, 2 Jordanians, 2 Palestinians, and 2 of the 4 hijackers. The two hijackers killed in the crash were holding Lebanese passports bearing the names of Ilyas George Hanna and Ziyad Hanna al-Asmar. These passports are believed to have been forged.

Saddam Husayn Visits Saudi Arabia, Returns Home

JN281955 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Leader President Saddam Husayn has visited Saudi Arabia to perform the minor pilgrimage and visit the tombs of Prophet Muhammad and his righteous companions. Upon arrival at Al-Ihsa' airport, the president was accorded a grand official reception with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy Harams, heading those who received him.

President Saddam Husayn and King Fahd met for 2 hours, after which the president was seen off. Leading those who saw him off were the king accompanied by His Highness 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the Saudi National Guard; Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation; Prince Muhammad ibn Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of the Eastern Region; the Saudi ministers; and senior military and civilian officials. The president was accompanied by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim, the president's secretary, and the commander of the Air Force and air defense forces. [passage omitted]

President Saddam Husayn arrived at Jeddah airport yesterday. He was received by Prince Sa'ud ibn 'Abd al- Muhsin ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. After a short period of rest at the royal hall, the president left for his place of residence accompanied by Prince Sa'ud ibn 'Abd al-Muhsin. The president later received Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, and Prince Turki al-Faysal. The meeting was attended by the president's secretary and the Iraqi ambassador in Saudi Arabia.

The president performed the rites of the minor pilgrimage and visited the tombs of the prophet and his companions. [passage omitted on his reception at Medina] He returned to Baghdad after his 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

The president sent the following cable to his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy Harams, at the conclusion of his visit:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

My brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the

two holy harams

Greetings. As we leave the territory of the fraternal Kingdom, the territory of love and peace, prophets and glory, we are pleased to affirm that relations between Iraq and Saudi Arabia will be further strengthened and entrenched with time in the service of the two fraternal peoples, the Arab nation, and all Muslims. I reiterate our gratitude for your fraternal hospitality on your good land.

Please accept my good wishes for yourself, your brothers, and the Arab and Muslim people of the Kingdom.

[Signed] Your brother, Saddam Husayn

Communiques, Reports Detail Fighting With Iran

Communique No 2,496

JN241557 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1432 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,496 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. If the Iranian rulers believe that the continuation of the war can prolong the dark era of their rule and achieve their evil intentions toward this homeland or undermine the determination of its sons, we prove to them today and every day through our brave action that the lofty people cannot be defeated, that the challenges strengthen them, and that the battlefields make them more powerful and proud. After all the empty claims of the criminal Shu'ubi clique, the leaders of this clique continued to face failures in every field, set traps for each other, stink from the scandals, and face Iraq's strong blows.

O Citizens, the aircraft of your Air Force continued their daily reaping of the criminal heads, inflicting great losses on your enemies, carrying out your invincible will, and defeating the aggressors. Your rapacious hawks carried out the following heroic operations:

1. At 1015 today, our planes raided the enemy equipment, vehicles, and assembly points in the Sumar area, scoring direct hits on them. Fire and explosions were seen all over the area.

2. At 1025, scores of our planes launched a devastating raid on the enemy vehicles, shelters, and camps in Shushtar, inflicting great losses on the Khomeyniites.

3. At 1036, scores of our planes raided tents, caravans, and barracks in the Dezful area and set them on fire.

4. At 1038, our planes carried out another raid on the enemy concentrations in Shushtar, inflicting more losses on the Khomeyniites.

5. At 1045, scores of our planes launched another raid on the enemy positions in the Sumar area and were able to destroy them.

6. At 1200, our planes raided the enemy positions and vehicles in the (Gan-e-Biz) area and were able to destroy them.

7. At the same time, our planes destroyed a number of the enemy positions and vehicles on the Qasr-e Shirin Sar-e Pol-e Zahab road.

8. At 1252, scores of our planes launched another raid on the enemy troop concentrations and vehicles in the Sumar area, dealing direct blows to them.

9. At 1430, scores of our planes raided the enemy troop concentrations in Sumar, once again inflicting heavy losses on them.

10. At 1431, scores of our planes raided a number of the enemy tents and caravans in the Sumar area and set them ablaze.

11. At 1500, our aircraft launched a raid on the enemy concentrations and vehicles in the Shushtar area, killing the scoundrel Khomeyniites.

12. The scoundrel Khomeyniites imagined that the missiles which their Zionist ally supplied them with could protect them from Iraq's power. They do not know that the Iraqi eagle challenges their air defenses themselves. At 1615, scores of our aircraft attacked the air defenses in Kermanshah [Bakhtaran] and one Hawk-missile battery, destroying them.

13. At the same time, scores of our planes pounced on the oil refinery installations in Kermanshah and set them ablaze.

14. At the same time, scores of our planes raided the power transformation plant in Kermanshah, destroying their targets.

15. At the same time, other scores of our aircraft were bombing an oil truck complex, tearing up the trucks.

After carrying out all these missions, all your brave eagles returned safely and triumphantly with their planes to the homeland in God's care.

This is the Iraqi response to those who acted wrongly. It is evidence that Iraq's hand, which has been extended to peace, also holds the sharp sword of truth and strikes with pride and strength. God grant us success and bless our Air Force — commanders, hawks, officers, and soldiers. We will also witness another day full of victories, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 December 1986

Communique No 2,497

JN241807 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1710 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,497 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With brave, honest men's determination, our valiant Armed Forces

have continued to inflct more losses on the aggressors. The results of their activities for last night and today are as follows:

1. The number of combat missions carried out by our Air Force to achieve the objectives mentioned in Communique No 2,496 issued this evening reached 196. Our brave hawks also carried out the following combat missions:

a. At 1615 today, our aircraft raided the enemy vehicles on the highway west of Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr], scoring destructive hits on them.

b. At 1615, our rapacious hawks raided the Kermanshah [Bakhtaran] oil refinery, scoring devastating hits on their targets while explosions were taking place around them.

c. At the same time, our aircraft raided enemy positions and assembly points in the (Gan-e Biz) area and destroyed their targets.

d. Also at 1615, scores of our planes raided the power transformation plant west of Kermanshah, scoring direct hits on their targets and leaving explosions and columns of smoke billowing from them.

e. At the same time, other scores of our aircraft launched a devastating raid on missile batteries west of Kermanshah.

After carrying out these heroic missions, all our planes returned safely, praised be God.

2. Our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah spotted enemy groups and vehicles and dealt accurate blows to them. A number of vehicles were destroyed, 12 scoundrels were killed, and others were wounded. The enemy was seen evacuating its losses. Elsewhere in the same sector, our units destroyed an enemy boat with all its occupants and eight infantry positions, killing and wounding their occupants. Our units also halted the enemy engineering works.

3. Our brave units in the VII Army Corps sector directed their strong fire at a number of enemy vehicles and through their concentrated fire were able to destroy a number of them and inflict losses on the enemy personnel and their equipment. Elsewhere in the same sector, our units spotted an enemy vehicle convoy, fired at it, destroyed three vehicles, and killed their occupants. They also destroyed two ammunition dumps and set enemy positions on fire.

4. Our units in the II Army Corps central sector used their artillery and tanks to shell the enemy units opposite them, inflicting further losses on them. One of our forces in the same sector destroyed one machine gun emplacement and one infantry position and killed their occupants.

5. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, three enemy soldiers were killed, others were wounded, and one single-barreled machine gun was destroyed.

6. Our units in the I special Army Corps, the God Is Great Forces, dealt effective artillery blows to the enemy positions, inflicting losses in personnel and equipment on them.

7. In the I Army Corps northern sector, one enemy soldier was killed and one ammunition dump was set ablaze.

8. To rid themselves of the charlatan Iranian rulers, a number of Iranian civilians sought refuge with our forward units. They were safely evacuated to the rear positions.

9. The criminal enemy shelled the city of Khanaqin with long-range artillery, martyring one child and wounding three other children.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 Decemebr 1986

Communique on Iranian Offensive

JN242211 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2119 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,498 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 24 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O great Iraqi people, O Arabs everywhere, O great heroes of our Armed forces who represent the glory, honor, and vitality of the Arab nation. As we expected them to come, and as we told you about their evil intentions before they carried them out, the evildoers came to the traps of death and destruction. The servants of the Zionists and the agents of imperialism came to gamble with the remnants of their evildoers with the aim of diverting the attention of their people and world public opinion from their ignominious cooperation with Zionism and imperialism. Accursed be their intentions and may God curse them.

O glorious Iraqis, who raise the banners of the great and sublime principles. The Iranian enemy attacked our brave forces in the III and VII Army Corps sectors at 2110 with the aim of occupying the chaste soil of Iraq. Our heroes from the Al-Faruq and Al-Miqdad forces and the forces attached to them were lying in wait for them in order to defend the fatherland and the holy shrines and to defend the honor, security, and future of the Arab nation. With God's help, all the forces in the first thrust which the enemy has sent so far have been destroyed. These evil forces have been wiped out and the units in the first thrust were cut off and isolated from the other forces, thanks to the firepower of the glorious sons of Iraq. With God's help, the agent, hollow heads which dared to attack our country will be burned by the fire which God has prepared for them at the hands of the glorious Iraqis. All the knaves will be buried in the quagmire of defeat without allowing them to realize their evil designs so that Iraq's banner will remain aloft and the heads of the Iraqis remain high with pride.

O glorious Iraqis: Rest assured that victory will be on your side and that our Armed Forces will defeat the knaves of the charlatan as they defeated them in previous battles. God is great. Accursed

be the lowly.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 December 1986.

Iranian 'Defeat' Cited

JN251205 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1125 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Communique No. 2,499 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O great Iraqi people, O sons of our valiant Armed Forces, O glorious Arabs everywhere: In our communique yesterday we announced that the treacherous enemy began its sinister hostile operations under the failed slogan of the year of decisiveness which was raised by the rabble rousers and agents of Zionism.

We also told you that the enemy actions against Iraq's lofty land and the brave sons of Iraq took place in the III and VII Army Corps sectors on the Al-Faw and Basra fronts and, more specifically, on the contact line with the Al-Miqdad Forces and those forces incorporated with them and on the front of the Al-Faruq Forces and the forces incorporated with them. We reassured you at the end of our communique yesterday about the results of the battles.

We are now bringing you the glad tidings of the final and obsolute defeat of the criminal enemy on the front of the heroic III Army Corps, after the heroic Al-Miqdad Forces and the forces incorporated with them waged valiant and splendid defensive battles. These battles were led by Staff Brigadier General 'Abd al-Wahid Shinan Al Ribat and under the supervision and command of Staff Major General Tali' Khalil Ruhayyim al-Duri, commander of the III Army Corps. These great battles resulted in killing thousands of rascals, in capturing a large number of prisoners, and in seizing large quantities of weapons and military equipment.

Amid all this, Iraq's flag fluttered high over our chaste land and the throats of thousands of faithful and brave men shouted in one voice God is great, truth has triumphed, and falsehood has been defeated. Let all honorable Arabs and Muslims shout with the Iraqis: God is great, let the lowly be accursed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 December 1986

3 Iranian Brigades 'Wiped Out'

JN251343 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1313 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] The INA team in the southern sector today reported details of the heroism of the Al-Miqdad Forces in the III Army Corps sector in crushing the offensive launched by the forces of the Zionist Iranian regime. In statements to INA, field commanders said that enemy forces were mowed down in no-man's land and failed to gain a foothold on Iraqi soil.

A senior officer in the Al-Miqdad Forces said three enemy brigades were totally wiped out. The brigades are the 57th, 16th, and 21st Brigades, as well as units of the 91st and 95th divisions. He said the combat operations of our forces harvested the rotten heads and paralyzed attacking enemy forces, troop concentrations, and preparations.

The INA team reports that thousands of Iranian dead litter no-man's land and a large number of Iranian prisoners have been evacuated to the rearlines.

A field command said the brave Al-Miqdad Forces completely crushed the aggressors facing their positions while the units fighting with the Al-Miqdad Forces and the artillery units destroyed the greater part of enemy concentrations deep inside enemy territory. He said the forces of the Zionist Iranian enemy attacked our forces on three axes, but were disgracefully defeated thanks to the courage of our fighters who believe in principles and are inspired by their outstanding leader, the struggler President Saddam Husayn.

Iranian Losses Detailed

JN251741 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1705 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,500 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 December 1986]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

O proud Iraqis. Further to our communique No 2,499 issued today, we declare to you that the battle of last night and today which the enemy wanted to be decisive has rebounded according to your desire and has been decisive against the enemy. Your enemy has sustained in losses thousands of dead and scores of thousands wounded, and he did not and will not achieve any of his objectives.

With the help of God the following enemy forces have been annihilated:

1. The 5th Division, Khomeyni [Islamic Revolution] Guards.

2. The 43d Division, Khomeyni Guards.

3. The 14th Division, Khomeyni Guards.

4. the 48th Division, Khomeyni Guards.

5. The 21st Brigade, Khomeyni Guards.

6. The 57th Brigade, Khomeyni Guards.

7. The 16th Brigade, Khomeyni Guards.

8. A company of frogmen, Khomeyni Guards.

The fighters of the heroic VII Army Corps and the fighters of the III Army Corps, commanders, officers, and men of the

Al-Faruq and Al-Miqdad forces and the formations incorporated with them took part in the battle. The infantry, the artillery, the armor, the special forces, the commandos, and the engineering corps fought well and proved that they are good sons of the Iraqi people.

As for your Air Force, true to form in the battles of heroism and destiny, it has harvested a great many Khomeyniite heads in 361 combat missions. The helicopter pilots were a sword brandished against the enemies. They carried out 110 combat missions. All our bomber aircraft, fighter aircraft, and helicopters have returned safely to base, praise be to God.

Blessed be your victory. You and your homeland are to be congratulated. You can be proud of your sons. Shame and disgrace to your enemies. May victory always be yours. Long live our great leader, who inspires us with courage, determination, and loyalty, and our hope for a happier future — President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him. May you always be joyful, o sons of this beloved homeland.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 December 1986

Iranians on Waterway 'Wiped Out'

JN260653 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0607 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Iraqi military spokesman's statement dated 26 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We have received the following from the VII Army Corps:

The heroes of the Corps in the Al-Faruq Forces' sector and the formations supporting them have completely wiped out the enemy forces which gained a foothold on Iraqi territory on the western bank of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway during their treacherous offensive on the night of 24 December and have completely purged Iraqi territory. The only presence the rogues have on our land is the piles of their dead bodies and the large numbers of their prisoners, while our valiant forces continue to destroy enemy remnants on Umm al-Rasas Island, situated on the Shatt al-'Arab, where the enemy gained a foothold on the night of 24 December. Preliminary reports confirm the enemy is experiencing very low morale while our forces are enjoying very high morale, which befits them after having destroyed the enemy forces in the passageways linking Umm al-Rasas Island to (Umm al-Jibal) Island. Our forces are pursuing the enemy to destroy them and we are waiting for the VII Army Corps to bring us glad tidings of victory on this island soon, God willing. God is great. Ignominy to the evil clique.

[Dated] 26 December 1986

Loss of 2 Aircraft Denied

JN260700 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0525 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text) Baghdad, 25 Dec (WAKH) — Iraq has denied Iranian claims that two Iraqi aircraft were downed and that a warship was destroyed in Arab Gulf waters today. In a statement to INA tonight, a military spokesman dismissed these claims as sheer lies and said all the Iraqi warplanes carried out their duties and returned safely to base.

Iranians 'Defeated' on Island

JN260950 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0905 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,501 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 26 December 1986]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] O Iraqis, the VII Army Corps heroes are this time bringing you the glad news of the final, blessed result of the great battle between our forces and the enemy after 2 days of fighting. Their forces, O Iraqis, were defeated on Umm al-Rasas Island and the Iraqi flag, whose mast is embraced by the Iraq's hearts, before being taken in their hands, and by the hearts of all honorable Arabs, flutters high on the island. Your great action is blessed by Almighty God and the souls of all of our pure forefathers and righteous martyrs.

The VII Army Corps heroes, led by Staff Lieutenant General Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid on the Al-Faruq Forces front and the forces incorporated with them under the command of Staff Brigadier General Qays Muhammad 'Ali and the Sa'd Forces and the forces incorporated with them under the command of Staff Brigadier General Nawfal Isma'il fought heroically. The battles waged on the VII and III Army Corps fronts were splendid on the level of all fighters — commanders and other ranks in the various spheres of command, organization, and support. Efforts were splendidly coordinated on the level of all forces and wepaons used.

Thus, the charlatans' slogan for this year was shattered and their sinister slogan will be shattered on all warfronts whenever they embark on aggression in the remaining part of their Iranian year which ends in March 1987, God willing, thanks to the determination, sacrifices, and vigilance of the zealous ones.

Praised be God for this outcome. God is great. Accursed be the lowly.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 December 1986

Reporters Invited To Front

JN261043 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1021 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Dec (INA) — The Iraqi Culture and Information Ministry has invited the correspondents of Arab and foreign newspapers, magazines, news agencies, and television networks to report to the Ministry building this afternoon where they will leave for the battlefronts to become acquainted with the Iraqi forces' victories in the III and VII Army Corps sectors.

Air Force Attacks Cited

JN261741 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1705 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,502 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 26 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our Armed Forces and the masses of the people have celebrated the great victory achieved by the comrades, the fighters of the VII and III Army Corps, in belief and in arms. Our fighters confirm their complete readiness to crush any adventure on which the agents of Zionism may embark and to make it indeed harsher and more terrible for the enemy than previous adventures. The following is a roundup of our activities for last night and today:

1. Our heroic Air Force played a part in every honor achieved and made a very important contribution to every victory. Our daring pilots continued to shatter the remnants and concentrations of the aggressors for the second consecutive day, providing strong support for the forces of the III and VII Army Corps as they destroyed the aggression. Our Air Force carried out 211 combat missions today. Our aircraft hit a large maritime target near the Iranian coast and dealt a destructive blow to the Hamid camp and its railway station, setting them on fire. All of our aircraft returned safely to base, praise be to God. Glory to our Air Force, its command, pilots, officers, and men.

2. The bold helicopter pilots of the Army's airborne division continue to forge heroic acts in every battle. For the second consecutive day they continued to attack enemy equipment, vehicles, weapons, and troop concentrations, inflicting heavy losses on them and providing magnificent support for our valiant forces. They carried out 73 combat missions after which the knights of the skies returned safely to base with their helicopters, praise be to God. May God bless the daring Army's airborne force, its command, pilots, officers, and men.

3. In a courageous combat mission, a unit of our valiant forces in the II Army Corps central sector killed four enemy personnel, captured a number of them, and seized three (GC) rifles.

Our units in the same sector engaged enemy troops and positions, inflicting further losses on them.

4. In order to rid themselves of the clique of charlatans and tyrants, a number of Iranian military personnel sought refuge with our frontline units on the battlefront. They were safely evacuated to the rear lines.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 December 1986

Commander Holds News Conference

JN270617 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1735 GMT 26 Dec 86

[News conference held by Lieutenant General Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid, commander of the VII Army Corps, "In an advanced position of the operations theater" attended by Iraqi and foreign correspondents on 26 December -- recorded]

[Text] I reiterate my welcome to the Arab and foreign correspondents and the brothers from our beloved Iraq in the VII Army Corps sector. The VII Army Corps protects an important port in our great country which is the target of this enemy and is also the target of another enemy who is more treacherous for reasons that are well-known and tangible. I hope I will be successful in giving a picture — honestly and within the limits of military security and the field security of the VII Army Corps — of the fighting that took place in the past 2 days (?and nights). The brother colleagues, like others, knew and expected an action to take place in one sector or another of the front in view of the fact that our enemy has been making statements and threats for some time, and in light of what his past declarations that the current year will be a decisive year, that he massed the necessary troops, and that he will do what he will do. All this is (?known) to everyone, not only to you and to us. The Iraqi side could not but prepare, and officials in the Ministry of Defense and outside have said (?so).

Therefore, we are prepared for the contest and we are prepared to do what must be done in foiling the enemy's intentions, threats, ambitions, and claims of the alleged decisive year. The prediction of Iraqi intelligence in logistics and in the field was that the entire — or part of — the VII Army Corps would (?witness) enemy aggression in the alleged decisive year of our treacherous enemy. [words indistinct] It was also predicted that enemy action was imminent, that enemy action would be concentrated on this or that part of the corps sector, that it could also include an adjacent corps or another corps, and that it could be a large-scale action in one sector or another. That is a matter that is determined and was determined by the intelligence service as I have said, and is determined by the intentions, statements, and also the stupidity of the enemy through his arrogance and demagoguery in (?attacking) targets, be they cities or other targets, in our great country. [passage indistinct]

Early on the night of 24-25 December the enemy attacked, beliving he would succeed in reaching important positions that would bring him closer to Basra, Iraq's steadfast port, or to other positions that are important for military or even nonmilitary actions to fulfill his evil intentions because he dreams of reaching that spot or axis in southern Iraq. I belive I am not authorized — nor is it desirable — to say more about the intentions of our treacherous enemy. As I have said, he was dreaming of reaching important positions or that he would reach axes and areas in the corps operations theater and penetrate its formations on the divisions' front. Fighting raged during that blessed night, the red night as the fighters of the corps call it, [words indistinct]. Our measures were known and expected, and were supposed to be known to the enemy because it was not the first battle in which he confronted us. It was not the first battle in which we confronted and defeated the enemy either. We have other command-

ers in the Armed Forces who have accustomed the enemy to such actions. The corps measures were swift and the work of the [words indistinct] were active and continuous. [words indistinct] I would not be exaggerating when I say that the spirit of cooperation among the divisions that fought and the other divisions surpassed what I have experienced in the III Army Corps in the past years and in the I Army Corps prior to that.

What does the enemy expect when there is a confrontation? We eliminated many footholds during that night and completed the action the following day. Many formations destroyed the enemy waves that attacked us from the water like frogmen or through infantry transported by various boats. What is important and satisfying is that despite the footholds or the small footholds within the defenses and formations achieved by the enemy, the enemy was unable throughout the many formations — and I challenge him — to capture the position of a (?full) regiment. He was besieged within the Umm al-Rasas island during fighting for 2 days and nights. Thus, on the following day the brigades that held the ground were joined by the units of the counteroffensive, armored units, infantry, and special forces - supported by other heroic forces, artillery, other forces, and even other services. Together with the general support of the Iraqi Air Force, which is known for its effectiveness and action, and the Army airborne force, which has a good record in the bright pages of our Armed Forces, we were able to complete the destruction of our enemy and eliminate his presence from all the footholds he had gained from the Abu (Fulus) River, south of the Abu (al-Khasib) on the Shatt al-'Arab waterway which is called (Al-Dajjaniyah), through areas in Shatt al-'Arab and islands in Shatt al-'Arab until the (Shima) area opposite the Hajj (Sambukh) island on the enemy side. [passage indistinct]

However, as I have said the enemy did not succeed in holding any foothold during the first night or the following day of the fighting.

Many of our units ended their battles without any help and without any reserve units to support them, attacking enemy positions in which they gained a foothold. Other units needed [word indistinct]. The battles were decided on the 3d day of the battle. [words indistinct] Why have we delayed the settling of the situation until this time while our people and our historic leadership are accustomed to seeing us decide our action or battles in less time than this? [words indistinct]

It really happened in favor of the military action. It was also opportunity during which many things took place. We have inflicted massive losses on the enemy that are important to us. We inflicted massive losses on the enemy's frogmen. I believe you saw the frogmen's equipment [words indistinct] the United States of America. [passage indistinct] We inflicted losses on the enemy of this type of fighter and, as I have said, mainly Khomeyni guards. You saw some of the POW's. [words indistinct] Our losses are small, praise be to God. When I say small I say it without any exaggeration like any military commander or fighter on the battlefield because facts remain facts as confirmed by previous occasions and battles. There are satellites and many other devices in countries that can confirm the losses on both sides.

What has been achieved thus far and in light of the [words indistinct] of POW's confirm that the enemy attacked with the first strike using selected forces, manily from the Khomeyni guards lead and the misled and wretched ones [words indistinct].

Most of their POW's, their dead, and their attacking forces are Khomeyni guards on which the disappointed Iranian regime depend and which constitute the best volunteers and regular forces, as is well known and you know this.

The enemy attacked with six divisions and six independent brigades. This means they attacked with eight divisions and other waves, some of which managed to arrive and participate in the fighting and some of which did not attempt to come or had better luck and did not take part in the fighting as was the case with the hostile 21st division which arrived this morning to participate. The position of this division was identified and specified. It came under the mercy of the Iraqi Air Force and the artillery of the VII and VIII Army Corps, and had its share from the artillery of at least four Iraqi divisions which poured their fire on the enemy along with the Iraqi Air Force. We say some of those who did not reach the battlefield or participate in the fighting were fortunate. Like you, we see the reality of our fighters, officers, and otehr ranks in front of you. If the opportunity arises you will see them in their frontline positions and in their fighting positions. You will see the smiling face of the Iraqi soldier as you saw it in previous broadcasts, visits, and battles. However, I can confidently say that you will see them in a different mood. I think from the nature of your work you will appreciate and know this. Thus, the battle ended with these results and our disappointed enemy has emerged with this outcome in the year of decisiveness which the enemy promised and made such a clamor about. This is all I have to say. I leave you with my colleague Abu Mas'ab to answer all your questions. Thank you. [Questions and answer session not broadcast]

Communique on Iranian Losses

JN271805 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,503 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 27 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The heroic VII Army Corps is violently striking at the heads of the enemy knaves, agents of Zionism, forcing them to pay a high price for their aggression and pushing their remnants to hell, their final abode. The following is a roundup of enemy losses from 24 to 26 December 1986 which were counted and ascertained by competent parties:

A. The killing of 12,000 men and the destruction of 124 boats and 107 vehicles of various types on the eastern bank of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway in front of our forces.

B. The killing of 9,400 men and the destruction of 211 boats on the Shatt al-'Arab waters before actual contact with the enemy.

C. The killing of 10,944 men and the destruction of 713 boats in front of the Al-faruq and Sa'd forces.

Thus, total enemy losses are: 32,344 dead, 1,048 boats and 107

vehicles of various types destroyed, and hundreds taken as prisoners. We have also ascertained from various sources that the enemy casualties on enemy territory were very grave.

God bless the men of the heroic VII Army Corps — commanders, officers, and other ranks. Praise be to God. Let the banner of great Iraq remain high. Long live the people, long live the leader, long live the Army. We thank God, the lord of mankind.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 December 1986

Further Battles Detailed

JN271830 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1705 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,504 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 27 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious forces continued to inflict further losses on the aggressors. The results of the activities for last night and today are as follows:

1. Several groups of enemy personnel tried to approach our positions in the heroic III Army Corps sector, but our brave soldiers confronted them with torrential fire, killing approximately 200 soldiers, wounding a large number, and capturing many others. The remnants of the Iranian soldiers fled chased by the fire of our heroic artillery. Our units in the same sector also used various types of weapons to attack the enemy concentrations, inflicting the following losses on them:

A. Destroying 10 boats carrying personnel.

B. Destroying and damaging several vehicles, some of which carried personnel.

C. Destroying two tanks and several enemy positions. God bless the loyal fighters, the soldiers of the hero III Army Corps.

2. One of our hero formations in the II Army Corps central sector observed a group of enemy personnel opposite our positions in that sector. The group was immediately fired on with artillery. Our brave soldiers managed to either kill or wound more than 100 scoundrel Khomeyniite soldiers. The remnants of these groups fled. In other positions of the same sector, several observation posts and ammunition depots were destroyed. God bless the soldiers of the hero II Army Corps.

3. The units of the hero VII Army Corps dealt severe blows to the enemy positions opposite them, scoring accurate blows and inflicting important losses on enemy personnel. Cries for help were heard from the scoundrels and the enemy was seen evacuating its losses. God bless the soldiers of the hero VII Army Corps.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 December 1986

Communique No 2,505

JN281732 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,505 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 28 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious forces continued to inflict further losses on the enemy, with God's help. The following are the overall activities for last night and today:

1. In continuation of the victories of our brave Armed Forces, our hero Air Force continued to attack enemy supplies dealing an accurate, effective blow against a large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 1235 today. Afterwords, our planes safely returned to base in God's care.

2. Our brave men in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah continued their heroic operations against the scoundrel Khomeyniites inflicting additional losses on them. Our men destroyed two tanks and three boats, captured one boat, and destroyed two enemy vehicles and a number of ammunition depots.

3. Our victorious forces on the VII Army Corps front continued to strike at enemy positions opposite them with all types of weapons, inflicting further losses on them. In other areas two boats, one of them carrying ammunition, were destroyed; four ammunition depots were burned; and five scoundrels were killed.

4. Our units in the II Army Corps central sector dealt effective blows to the enemy units with artillery, tanks, and mortars, destroying a number of infantry positions and inflicting human and equipment losses on the enemy.

5. Six enemy personnel were killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

6. The spiteful Khomeyniite clique shelled residential areas in Basra with long-rang artillery, wounding five civilians.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 December 1986

Iranian Losses Summed Up

JN281839 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1746 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,506 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 28 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The III Army Corps, which is known for its great deeds, has dealt blows to the enemies with Iraq's vigor and thrown them and their evil intentions into hell. During the great harvest operation hy the Al-Qadisiyah forces in which the Al-Miqdad forces played a decisive and principal role, our brave fighters managed to either kill or wound a very large number of enemy personnel and to

capture and destroy large quantities of equipment and weapons as follows:

1. The killing or wounding of 50,380 enemy personnel, including groups of frogmen sent by the enemy at the beginning of its aggression.

2. The destruction of 275 mortars.

3. The destruction of 32 guns of various types.

4. The destruction of 1,016 boats of various types.

5. The destruction of 227 spg-9 guns and 1 106-mm gun.

6. The destruction of 18,487 parts of various weapons.

7. The destruction of 35 shovels [preceding word in English].

8. The destruction of 21 bulldozers.

9. The destruction of 422 vehicles of various types.

10. The destruction of eight tanks.

11. In addition to previous losses, numbers of enemy personnel were either killed or wounded on enemy territory, in their positions, in their artillery emplacements, and on their supply lines. Two commanders of the charlatan Khomeyniite guards were killed and a large number of enemy personnel were captured and evacuated to the rear.

God bless the men of the hero III Army Corps — command, officers, and soldiers. Let the banner of glorious Iraq be proud. Long live the people. Long live the leader. Long live the Army. We thank god.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 December 1986

Correction to Ambassador's Interview on Arms Deal

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Ambassador Views Impact of U.S. Arms Shipments," published in the 17 December Middle East & Africa *Daily Report*, page E 1, right column, paragraph five, lines two and three:
...not just because of Iran's "terrorist" reputation, because... (changing "Iraq's" to "Iran's")

Egyptian President Mubarak Arrives in Aqaba

JN281119 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Aqaba — Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his wife arrived in Aqaba today on a 2-day visit to Jordan during which he will hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn on the overall situation in the Arab region, current international issues, and bilateral relations. King Husayn and Queen Nur welcomed President Mubarak and his wife upon arrival at Aqaba Airport. Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, senior officials in Aqaba, and the Egyptian ambassador in Amman also welcomed the guests.

Accompanying President Mubarak is a delegation including Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs. Jordanian Ambassador in Cairo Husayn Hamami also arrived on the same plane.

Husayn Hosts Working Lunch

NC281619 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Aqaba, 28 Dec (MENA) — Discussions between President Husni Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn resumed during a working luncheon the Jordanian monarch hosted today for President Mubarak and his delegation. The discussions had begun immediately on President Mubarak's arrival in Aqaba earlier today.

Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji, head of the Egyptian Public Information Authority and member of the delegation accompanying President Mubarak, said President Mubarak and the Jordanian monarch reviewed and studied in depth developments in the Middle East question, prospects for a settlement, and the possibilities of achieving a just peace in the area in the light of the stands of various regional and international parties.

Dr Al-Biltaji added that the two Arab leaders exchanged information and views on the results of recent exchanges both men have held with concerned Arab and international parties interested in facilitating the Middle East peace process.

The discussions were attended on the Egyptian side by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and presidential adviser for political affairs; Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji, head of the Public Information Authority; Dr Mustafa al-Faqi, the president's secretary for information; and Egyptian Ambassador in Amman Ihab Wahbah.

The Jordanian side was represented by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Royal Court chief Marwan al-Qasim; Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri; and Jordanian Ambassador in Cairo Husayn Hamami.

Talks 'Amicable, Constructive'

NC281637 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Aqaba, 28 Dec (MENA) — Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji, head of the Egyptian Public Information Authority and member of the delegation accompanying President Husni Mubarak to Jordan, has announced that the Egyptian-Jordanian talks dealt with the situation and changes in the Arab and Islamic world prior to the Islamic summit conference in Kuwait at the end of January. The talks, Dr al-Biltaji added, also touched on developments in the Iraq-Iran war.

In a statement to MENA, Dr al-Biltaji noted that the Egyptian-Jordanian exchanges were held in an amicable and constructive atmosphere in light of the eagerness of the Egyptian and Jordanian leadership to deepen ties, coordination, and consultations between the two countries to serve the objectives and interests of the Arab and Islamic peoples, as well as just peace in the Middle East.

A second round of talks between the Egyptian and Jordanian sides is expected this evening.

Mubarak Leaves Aqaba 29 Dec

JN291148 Amman Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and his wife left Aqaba at noon today at the conclusion of his 2-day visit to Jordan. President Mubarak held talks with His Majesty King Husayn on the current Arab situation and international issues of mutual concern as well as bilateral relations.

His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur bade farewell to the Egyptian president and his wife at Aqaba Airport.

Al-Masri Returns From Egypt, Comments on Talks

JN262003 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Amman — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri returned to Amman from Cairo this evening following a 3-day visit to Egypt during which he met with President Husni Mubarak and People's Assembly speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub. He also held talks with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on relations between the two countries and ways to bolster and promote them in various fields, in addition to current Arab and international issues and the two countries' efforts to remove obstacles to holding aninternational peace conference. The talks also dealt with bilateral coordination on the issues to be raised at the Islamic summit conference in Kuwait next month.

In a statement to the *Jordanian News Agency*, Al-Masri described his talks with the officials in Egypt as disstinguished and useful. He said the Jordanian and Egyptian sides had a complete agreement on all issues discussed and that the two countries' officials assessed matters in an objective manner. He reiterated his pride in the level of the relationship between the

two countries. He said: I hope the Arab countries will follow Egypt and Jordan on the level of bilateral relations.

Al-Masri said that Jordan's relationship with the PLO remains the same. We are brothers of the Palestinians, our fate is the same, and we are linked to them by distinguished relations, he said. He added: We still recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Al-Masri asserted that among Jordan's top priorities is to support the kinfolk in the occupeid Arab territories. In his statements, the minister noted Jordan's consistent stand supporting fraternal Iraq in its just war with Iran. He said: Our stand on this war is known, and our support for the brothers in fraternal Iraq is continuing for the sake of the legitimate defense of their homeland's soil. He added: By doing so, we proceed from the principle of Arab fraternity and from the fact that Iraq constitutes the Arab homeland's eastern flank.

The minister condemned the attempt to hijack an Iraqi plane, which resulted in the loss of innocent people. He said: We in Jordan are against any terrorist operations of this type and condemn such acts.

Iraqi President Telephones King Husayn
JN261900 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received a telephone call from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn this morning reassuring the king that the brave Iraqi forces defeated the Iranian aggression and crushed it completely, that the island of Umm al-Rasas was also regained, and that the Iraqi people are joining their brothers on the front in celebrating the victory.

In his telephone call with King Husayn, President Saddam asserted that the Iraqi forces will remain an impregnable wall protecting the land of Iraq and the Arab nation from any aggression and that these forces will continue to achieve successive victories until a complete victory is realized, God willing.

King Husayn said he and the Jordanian people join President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people, headed by their brave Armed Forces, in the joy of victory. He asked God to support the resolve of the fighters defending their Arab nation and to grant them a decisive victory in repulsing any aggression against the fraternal Iraqi land. The king reaffirmed Jordan's denunciation of the Iranian aggression on fraternal Iraq. He also recalled that this aggression launched by the Tehran rulers using Israeli weapons calls on the Arab nation to close its ranks in the face of its enemies.

Surviving Passengers Describe Iraqi Plane Hijack
JN261009 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
26 Dec 86 pp 1, 17

[By Ahmad Shakir]]

[Excerpts] Amman — *Al-Dustur* has obtained the complete story of the catastrophe of the Iraqi airliner that crashed in northern Saudi Arabia yesterday following its hijacking while on a regular flight between Amman and Baghdad. The three Jordanian survivors, who were welcomed by Prince 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn, have made statements to *Al-Dustur*. [passage omitted]

Sulayman 'Arar spoke about the painful incident and said: At 1045 Amman time, or 1145 Baghdad time yesterday, an Iraqi Airways Boeing 737 took off on regular Flight 163 to Amman. My brother Khalid and I were sitting in first class with five or six other passengers, including an Iraqi ambassador. Approximately 1 hour after the plane took off, around 1200 Amman time, I saw a young man rush toward the first class compartment, enter the cockpit, and throw a hand grenade he had been holding in his hand while opening fire with a weapon in his other hand. The Iraqi guards opened fire on him, killing him in front of us.

While this was taking place, we also heard gunfire coming from tourist class as well as the shouts of passengers. As a result of the explosion, black smoke covered the first class compartment while passengers tried to put out the fire from the explosion with their coats. We nearly suffocated from the black smoke and tried to use the oxygen masks, which failed to function. Most probably, they were impaired by the explosion. The plane began to lose altitude, but the crew remained calm and succeeded in putting the plane on automatic pilot.

The exchange of fire lasted some 20 minutes until we saw the runway of 'Ar'ar Airport, which is in the northern part of Saudi Arabia. The side windows were shattered and we began to breathe. The plane then roughly landed about 50 meters from the runway. Upon landing, the plane turned over on its left side and I could see the ground above my head. At the moment of landing, the tail of the plane as well as the tourist class section were separated from the rest of the plane. We, the first class passengers, began rushing toward the emergency door, which was opened by the crew. I was the sixth passenger to leave the plane and my brother Khalid was the seventh. Five others preceded us. We went down the emergency chute and ran quickly away from the plane, which was on fire.

Sulayman 'Arar added: After we ran about 30 meters away from the plane, it exploded and was engulfed in flames. While stepping down from the plane, I saw that many of the plane's seats as well as bodies of passengers were scattered around.

'Arar said: 'Ar'ar Airport officials arrived at the scene no longer than 5 minutes after this. Fire engines started to put out the fire and ambulances began to evacuate victims. 'Ar'ar citizens also arrived at the scene of the crash and helped in taking

the dead and wounded to 'Ar'ar hospital, which is 20 km from the airport. We did not allow ourselves to be examined so the wounded and serious cases could be treated first. Ranking Saudi officials began to arrive at the hospital, and citizens began to donate blood. [Passage omitted]

In another account by another passenger, the hijackers tried to take control of the plane when it entered Saudi airspace and the plane's Iraqi guards foiled their attempt. One of the hijackers threw a grenade that exploded while the plane was still in the air, and hand-to-hand fighting took place between the Iraqi guards and the hijackers. While this was taking place, the pilot was doing his best to land at the nearest airport, which in this case was 'Ar'ar Airport. The pilot succeeded in making a forced landing 800 meters from the runway. The plane hit the ground, and this seems to have detonated other bombs, which destroyed the major part of the plane and killed all passengers in this part of the plane, while passengers in the front escaped. [Passage omitted]

'Revolutionary Action' Claims Iraqi Plane Attack

NC251915 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1903 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Excerpts] An Iraqi passenger aircraft coming from Baghdad was hijacked today as it was about to land at Amman Airport. The hijackers exploded a hand grenade inside the plane while it was airborne, killing 59 passengers and wounding another 20. Twenty-two of those aboard escaped unhurt. The plane was forced to land at 'Ar'ar Airport in northern Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

An unidentified person contacted the NNA a few minutes ago and said that the Revolutionary Action Organization [Munazzamat al-'Amal al-Thawri] was claiming responsibility for the blast. The caller promised to give us additional details.

Release of Detainees Demanded

NC261955 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1905 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] We have just received the following: An unidentified individual has telephoned the NNA, and claimed to be speaking on behalf of the Revolutionary Action Organization. He announced that the group takes full responsibility for the blast aboard the Iraqi plane. In addition, he warned Baghdad that if three of the organization's members currently detained in Iraq are not freed within 48 hours, Iraqi interests and embassies around the world will be hit. The captives are: Muhammad al-Tharthar, Hasan 'Alawiyah, and 'Ali Jabir.

The spokesman for Revolutionary Action stressed that Iraq must meet the organization's demands or bear the responsibility for the consequences. He asserted that no members of the group were aboard the aircraft. He then said that the plane had been booby-trapped while it was still on the ground at the airport. The detonation of the explosive charge that had been placed at the front of the aircraft forced the pilot to land. The caller noted that Iraqi officials, as well as a senior Jordanian official and a number of Saudi citizens were on the plane, but there were no Lebanese aboard.

Islamic Jihad Claims Attack

NC260617 Paris AFP in English 0609 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Beirut, Dec 26 (AFP) — A caller claiming to speak for the Islamic Jihad organisation claimed the hijacking of an Iraqi plane which crashed in Saudi Arabia Thursday, killing at least 59 people.

In a telephone call to a Western news agency, the man said the fundamentalist Muslim group had carried out the hijacking with the Al-Da'wah party, a fundamentalist Shi'ite group opposed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The caller asked the French Government to stop financial and military support for Iraq in the Gulf war with Iran. [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad Role Denied

HK270010 Hong Kong AFP in English
0006 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Beirut, Dec 27 (AFP) — A group claiming responsibility for hijacking an Iraqi airliner on Thursday accused the Saudi Air Force Friday night of forcing down the plane.

Then it was attacked by Saudi soldiers at nightfall, which "provoked a massacre on board," according to this new version of the catastrophe at 'Ar'ar Airport in northern Saudi Arabia in which 62 people died, 32 were injured and 13 were unhurt.

The accusation was made by the Iraqi branch of the Islamic Revolutionary Movement (IRM) in a message to a western news agency here. The message claimed that the airliner was forced down after "our Mujahideen (...) neutralized the security guards" on the craft after it took off from Baghdad.

The IRM threatened Saudi Arabia with reprisals earlier Friday if it handed over the hijackers to Iraq.

Responsibility for the hijacking was claimed earlier by a hitherto-unknown Revolutionary Action Organization. It is unclear if the RAO and IRM are two different organizations with similar names, or a single group with two different versions of its name. The sky-jacking was also claimed in a message purporting to come from the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad (Holy War) organization. But a phone call purporting to come from Islamic Jihad Friday night denied that group was involved.

Iraq blamed the deaths on "Iranian agents carrying lebanese passports". But Iran, which is at war with Iraq, denied responsibility.

Survivors said two to four hijackers threw two grenades while exchanging shots with security guards, and that the damaged plane crashed short of the runway. The craft was under fire from airport security guards as it crashed and then exploded in flames, said former Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister Sulayman 'Arar, who was among the passengers who escaped.

The IRM message said the purpose of the hijacking was to draw world attention to "repression by the Iraqi regime, to make (Iraqi president) Saddam Husayn tremble (...) and to get our hands on Sulayman Arar."

Group Threatens Saudis

NC261132 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] An organization calling itself the Revolutionary Islamic Movement-The Iraqi Wing [Al-Harakah al-Islamiyah al-Thawriyah-al-Janah al-'Iraqi] issued a statement in Beirut today in which it threatened retaliation against Saudi authorities if they hand over the hijackers of the Iraqi airliner. The organization said it holds the Saudi authorities responsible for the fate of the hijackers. In its handwritten statement, which was conveyed to a Western news agency in West Beirut, the organization threatened violence if the hijackers are handed over.

Hostage Released Into Custody of French Embassy

NC241803 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Aurel Cornea, an sound engineer for the French television network Antenne-2, was released at 1800 today. Cornea and three other Antenne-2 crew members had been kidnapped on 8 March 1986. [passage omitted]

The Organization of Revolutionary Justice issued a statement in which it said that it had released the French hostage at 1700 in front of the Beau Rivage Hotel. However, an AFP report stated that Aurel Cornea had been released into the custody of the French military attache in Lebanon at 1800 and escorted to the embassy.

Libyan Diplomat Killed by Gunfire in Al-Biqa'

NC251740 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1725 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] A diplomatic vehicle belonging to the Libyan Embassy in Damascus came under fire today in Ta'nayil [in Al-Biqa']. Two people were inside the car, which bears diplomatic license plate 123. One of them, Misbah Muhammad Gharibi, was killed, while the other, Muhammad Abu Bakr Dahmani, was wounded.

Libya Confirms Diplomat's Death

NC251902 Paris AFP in English 1852 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Shtawrah, Lebanon, Dec 25 (AFP) — A Libyan diplomat posted in Damascus was assassinated and another seriously wounded Thursday in the Syrian controlled Al-Biqa' Valley in Lebanon, correspondents in the region reported. Libya's counsellor at its Damascus Embassy, Misbah Muhammad Gharibi was killed instantly as a hail of automatic weaponfire from a Mercedes car pierced the diplomats' BMW automobile, near the village of Ta'nayil, some 45 kilometers (30 miles) east of Beirut on the road to Damascus, the correspondents said. [passage omitted]

There was no immediate claim for the attack. [passage omitted]

In Damascus, the Libyan Embassy confirmed the killing of the diplomat.

"The financial charge d'affaires of the Libyan People's Bureau at Damascus was killed instantly, when an armed man in a Mercedes opened fire in his direction in the Shtawrah area, while the diplomat was returning by car to Syria," charge d'affaires 'Abd al-Qadir al-Warfali said. He gave no other details except that the diplomat — whose identity he did not reveal — was not hit. "We are awaiting the return of this person to get fuller details," he added.

This contradicted reports by correspondents at Shtawrah that a second diplomat, Muhammad Abu Bakr Dahmani, was seriously wounded in the attack.

Amal Blamed for Libyan's Death

NC260646 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] In Al-Biqa', gunmen assassinated Misbah Muhammad Gharibi, a diplomat posted at the Libyan Embassy in Damascus, and seriously wounded his colleague Muhammad Abu Bakr al-Dahamani yesterday. Libyan Charge d'Affaires in Damascus 'Abd al-Qadir al-Urfali has confirmed the assassination. The DFLP has accused the Amal Movement of assassinating the Libyan diplomat. The front affirmed that the incident constitutes aggression against the Palestinian people and an attempt to thwart Libya's efforts to end the camps fighting in Lebanon.

Amal Statement on Al-Biqa' Ambush

NC260932 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Statement issued by the Amal Movement on 25 December]

[Text] A bus belonging to the Amal Movement and carrying some of the movement's fighters, who were on their way back to Al-Biqa' from Beirut, was ambushed before a DFLP position in the area at 1300 on Thursday, 25 December. Brother Husayn Haydar was martyred and five of his comrades were wounded in the ambush. Consequently, Syrian forces intervened and resolved the situation.

While recalling strange Palestinian actions against those who have embraced the oppressed Palestinian people, the Amal Movement believes that with today's strike in Al-Biqa' the followers of 'Arafat and Palestinian deviationists, who endorse the plot being implemented in Tyre, Sidon, Beirut, and Tripoli, wanted to implement their scorched earth policy in Lebanon, killing its people for no ther reason thatn perhaps to serve Israel and ignite the spirit of sedition between the Lebanese and Palestinian people. This is particularly true in light of the alliance between the PLO and the Lebanese Phalangist regime. Today's ambush, which followed the same pattern as the ambush against a bus in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, is a clear manifestation of this alliance. Although the instrument of implementation in these incidents differed, their goals are the same.

While condemning this cowardly method, the Amal Movement expects the Palestinian people to speak out about the plots of their deviationist leaders, and it hopes they will rise against such plots, as one with our struggling people in the occupied West Bank. This is the only correct way to expel the occupation forces. The operations in Maghdushah and Sa'd Nayil will not achieve this objective. On this occasion we express our appreciation for the vigilance of our people in Sa'd Nayil and their honorable stand, which foiled the plotters' attempt to sow sedition, the fuel of which is the deprived among the sons of our Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

Junblatt Affirms Al-Jumayyil-'Arafat Deal

NC250720 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Walid Junblatt, minister of public works and tourism, has stated that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has concluded a deal with President Amin al-Jumayyil. In an interview published in the UAE paper *Al-Khalij* yesterday, Junblatt said that Al-Jumayyil has granted facilities to 'Arafat and that some Arab embassies in East Beirut have provided further facilities to 'Arafat, who managed to reinfiltrate Lebanon because of a lack of coordination among influential nationalist forces in West Beirut.

Junblatt accused some embassies in East Beirut of supplying arms to Christian militias to fight Syria. He affirmed that differences among Arab states have prompted some embassies to ally themselves with the Christian militias. He added that these differences further prompted these embassies to provide arms, ammunition, and funds to fight Syria. He pointed out that his party [PSP] stands with Damascus, which is confronting an Arab and international campaign.

Minister Junblatt described as strange Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's call to the Palestinian forces not to abandon their positions in Maghdushah township. Junblatt called for a redefinition of Lebanese-Palestinian relations, saying that the Lebanese people must grant all rights to the Palestinians except that of citizenship, which would permit them to settle permanently in Lebanon.

Amal on Palestinian Withdrawal

NC251148 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Excerpt] While the security and political situation remains unchanged, PNSF sources in Sidon today announced that the PNSF had developed a draft solution providing for the withdrawal of pro-'Arafat forces from Maghdushah at 1800 today.

Contacted by our radio station, the Amal leadership in the south affirmed that the Amal Movement cannot possibly accept an agreement which does not include provisions for unconditional Palestinian withdrawal from Maghdushah. Amal expressed the hope that the nationalist parties would adopt a frank stand regarding the camps war instead of a stand vacillating between the two sides. Amal stressed its hope that the forces which will enter Maghdushah to replace the pro-'Arafat fighters will not become involved in the fighting. [passage omitted]

DFLP: Birri Rejected Agreement

NC251226 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] DFLP Assistant Secretary General Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh has accused Minister Nabih Birri of rejecting the recent draft agreement reached in Damascus, saying: We came from Damascus with the draft agreement reached at a meeting of the leaders of the PNSF and leftist parties with Libyan Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud. After discussions in Sidon the Palestinian groups agreed to the implementation of the agreement. However, we have learned that Minister Birri has refused to begin the implementation, setting new conditions which call for excluding of the main national forces from participating in taking over the positions in Maghdushah and rejecting any role for scholars in implementing this agreement.

Amal's Dawud Asserts Authority

NC261210 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] According to the *Al-Masirah* newspaper, Dawud Dawud, the Amal Movement's official in the South, has summoned a number of Amal officials in the South and told them that decisionmaking in the area is up to him alone. He gave them the choice of obeying his orders or joining Birri in Damascus and taking up the battle with him there.

'Arafat Consults With Iranians

NC271341 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Excerpts] According to a diplomatic report, the ongoing efforts to put an end to the camps war do not address its real causes. The means for a practical solution are also missing. This is particularly true with regard to the buffer forces needed in Beirut and the south. The report cites Fatah sources as saying that the Soviet Union, in its capacity as a power broker, has drawn the line with Shatila camp. According to Fatah sources, the Soviets believe that the fall of this camp would trigger an escalation in military operations that could go beyond shelling from Palestinian positions on the mountain. [passage omitted]

According to the same report, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is holding consultations with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Iranian parliament. 'Arafat is concentrating attention on the Iranian and Libyan initiatives, both of which have been rejected by the Amal Movement. Contacts between the Damascus-based PNSF and the Baghdad-based PLO are continuing with Syrian blessing, the report adds. 'Arafat views this development as a personal victory, having both the Palestinian financial and military trump cards up his sleeve.

Major Camps Largely Destroyed

NC271547 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] The fighting along the combat lines in Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah turned violent at 1430. Rockets, artillery, and machineguns have been employed in the clashes. Meanwhile, in a joint statement issued today, the PNSF, the DFLP, and the Abu Nidal group announced that 85 percent of the Shatila camp and 50 percent of Burj al-Barajinah and Al-Rashidiyah have been destroyed. The declaration also notes that well over 250 Palestinians have been killed, and another 800 wounded.

30 Killed as Syrians Surround Villages

NC251806 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami met today at his home in Miryatah with the mufti of Tripoli, Taha al-Sabunji. In a statement afterward, the mufti said he had briefed the prime minister on the causes and effects of recent developments. He also conveyed the feelings and demands of the people of Tripoli, and stressed that incidents in the city must be avoided. In addition, he noted that the poorer neighborhoods where these painful episodes took place must be helped. Prime Minister Karami also received delegations from Al-Dinniyah, and their members recounted what happened in the area. They expressed their support for the Syrian ADF as their legitimate defense against foreign interference.

Security sources report that the Syrians raided villages in Northern Lebanon today while looking for weapons and for those suspected of involvement in last week's clashes. Helicopters were said to have flown over the area, and the sound of heavy machine-gun fire could be heard during the search. The Syrians, backed by tanks and other military vehicles, surrounded 10 villages in Northern Lebanon yesterday, and established roadblocks in the mountainous zones east of Tripoli. Dozens of people were detained after a Syrian roadblock was attacked. More than 36 hours of violent fighting followed this incident, and at least 30 people were killed.

Kan'an Supervising 'Murders'

NC281839 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] According to reports received from Al-Dinniyah this evening, the raids, arrests, and murders being carried out by Syrian forces in the area take place under the supervision and in the presence of Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, Major General 'Ali Haydar, commander of the Syrian special units, and Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad al-Sha'ar of Syrian intelligence, who is responsible for the massacres which were carried out in Hamah and Homs [in Syria]. According to the same reports, individuals arrested are moved to the Jabal Muhsin al-'Ali area in Tripoli, where they are physically eliminated under the supervision of Muhsin 'Id, Abu Shakib, and Kamal, who is nicknamed Al-Khumayni. The dead are then buried in mass graves near the Al-Ma'rifah club.

It is also reported that the Syrian forces have arrested Shaykh 'Abdallah Hawshar in Al-Dinniyah and moved him, on Brig Gen Ghazi Kan'an's orders, to the Al-Amirikan school, where he is being tortured. The Syrians have arrested other shaykhs, whose fate remains unknown. Also according to these reports, Brig Gen Kan'an is now at the Sayr al-Dinniyah secondary school, surrounded by two battalions of Syrian special units. According to reports received from Tripoli today, a red volskwagon has for several days been moving detainees from Bab al-Tabbanah and Al-Zahariyah in Tripoli to Jabal Muhsin, where they have been killed.

Movement Leader's Arrest Denied

NC290705 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] The Islamic Unification Movement has denied that the Syrian forces have arrested Shaykh Hashim Minqarah, one of the movement's leaders, in a village in the 'Akkar district. In a statement to a foreign news agency in Beirut, a spokesman for the movement said that by spreading such stories the Syrians are trying to demoralize the movement's fighters in 'Akkar and Tripoli.

Al-Asad Receives Phone Call From France's Chirac

JN242157 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2115 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call from French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, who expressed his thanks as well as the thanks of the French people and government to President Hafiz al-Asad for the Syrian authorities' assistance in releasing Aurel Cournea, the French hostage who was released today. During his call, Chirac said that he and the French people and government highly appreciate this assistance. The president thanked him for the call and said: We are pleased with Cornea's release, and we share with Chirac and the French people and government their happiness on this occasion. He added that he takes this opportunity to express his wishes of happiness for Chirac and the French people on the eve of Christmas and the new year. Chirac repeated his thanks, wishing the president and the Syrian people a happy new year.

In Paris, French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's office announced today that Aurel Cornea, who was held in Beirut and released 10 months after his abduction, will be taken to Paris by plane tomorrow afternoon. Reports quoted a French Government statement as saying that the French Government is very happy with this result on Christmas Eve and that it thanks all those who contributed to the release and who were being contacted in the past hours.

President Al-Asad Receives Tripoli Islamic Leader

JN281721 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1615 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] At noon today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, head of the Islamic Unification Movement in Tripoli, together with Malik 'Allush and 'Abdallah Babti. They discussed the situation in Tripoli.

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban condemned the failed attempt by a certain group having dubious connections to tamper with the city's security. Indicating that the Islamic Unification Movement condemned this bid from the outset, he emphasized Syria's principal role in maintaining security in Tripoli. President Al-Asad reiterated that Syria will continue to work for the preservation of security in Tripoli.

Al-Asad Congratulates SRV Leader on Election

JN241522 Damascus SANA in Arabic
1300 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Damascus, 24 Dec (SANA) — President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a cable to Nguyen Van Lonh on his election as general secretary of the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party.

In his cable to the Vietnamese official, President Al-Asad expressed in his name and on the behalf of the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party his sincerest congratulations to him and wished him continued good health and success. He also expressed his confidence that the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two parties and countries will continue to develop.

President Congratulates Kiprianou on Reelection

JN241526 Damascus SANA in Arabic
1255 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Damascus, 24 Dec (SANA) — President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a cable to President Spiros Kiprianou on his reelection as secretary general of the Cypriot Democratic Party.

In his cable to the Cypriot president, President al-Asad expressed in his name and on the behalf of the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party his sincerest congratulations to him and wished him continued good health and success. He also expressed his confidence that the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two parties and countries will continue to develop.

Foreign Minister Receives Cuban Official, Letter

JN271309 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT Dec 86

[Text] At noon today Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Giraldo Mazola, Cuban vice foreign minister for Middle East and African Affaires, along with Assistant Foreign Minister Dia'ullah al-Fattal, Dr Ahmad Saqr, head of the American Department at the Foreign Ministry; the Cuban ambassador in Damascus; and (Luis Maris) of the North Africa and Middle East Divison of the Cuban Foreign Ministry. Al-Shar' received a letter from the Cuban foreign minister stessing his county's full solidarity with Syria in confronting the U.S.-British campaign seeking to encourage Israel's expansionist and aggressive policies.

Discussions during the meeting ranged over Middle East and international developments and ways to promote bilateral ties.

Intelligence Officers Found Dead Outside Camp

NC241923 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] The *Central News Agency* has quoted Palestinian sources as saying that the bodies of six Syrian intelligence officers were found 2 days ago outside the Al-Yarmuk [Palestinian] camp in a Damascus suburb. Camps in Syria have obtained weapons, and a number of gunmen managed to take 14 members of Syrian intelligence prisoner recently inside Al-Yarmuk. Six of the Syrians were killed in reaction to the events in Tripoli, while the other eight are still in the Camp. Their fate is as yet unknown.

Rabin 'Regrets' No U.S. Stand on Iran Affair

TA241223 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1153 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that 80 percent of the U.S. arms shipped to Iran were supplied from U.S. depots, while the rest were supplied from IDF warehouses with U.S. approval. During a tour of Sederot, the defense minister said he had not agreed that Israeli pilots fly the arms to Iran so as not to endanger their lives. We did not earn any money, and we did not do what we did for the money; we concluded the deal without gaining or losing anything, Yitzhaq Rabin said. The defense minister voiced regret over the fact that the U.S. Administration has not yet taken a stand and said: we reached a decision and implemented it. Mr Rabin said that he was proud that the United States can approach Israel and request its assistance in such matters, and the American people will appreciate this once the storm in the United States blows over.

No 'Direct' U.S. Questioning

TA261027 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
26 Dec p 22

[Report by political correspondent Dalya Shehori]

[Excerpt] The United States has so far not turned to Israel for details on the weapons deal with Iran and the transfer of funds to the contras in Nicaragua. However, in Jerusalem it has already been agreed between the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign and Defense Ministries that Israel will accept the U.S. appeal only at the governmental level and will not agree to direct questioning of Israeli Government employees by U.S. officials.

It is noted in Jerusalem that the information Israel can give would amount to evidence concerning an internal American affair. Due to the fact that Israel is not implicated in the investigation of the affair — unlike the Pollard affair — Jerusalem is willing to accept the U.S. appeal, but the questioning will be conducted in Israel by the Israeli Government. Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein is coordinating the contacts between the ministries on this issue.

Concerning the contradictions in the testimonies of Robert MacFarlane and Donald Regan regarding the date on which President Reagan approved the weapons shipments from Israel to Iran, Israeli political elements said the contacts were held with MacFarlane, and it is inconceivable that this was done without President Reagan's knowledge. [passage omitted]

Swiss Bank Account Closed

TA280943 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
28 Dec 86 p 1

[Text] The Defense Ministry recently closed the bank account that had been opened in Switzerland in connection with the arms deals with Iran and the transfer of funds from the Iranians to the United States via Israel. This move came in the framework of a comprehensive probe of all financial accounts related to the arms deals.

The probe was ordered by the defense minister and conducted by accountants and security personnel. Among other things, it was conclusively established that, at the American's request, the money that reached Israel through Ya'aqov Nimrodi and Al Schwimmer for the first TOW missiles was transferred onward: Half of it was redeposited in a Swiss bank account provided by the Americans, whereas the other half was handed over to Iranian dealer Ghorbanifar at the Americans' request. These sums amounted to a total of $3 million. The rest of the money received through Nimrodi ($700,000 to $800,000) remained in Israel to cover the expenses incurred by the defense establishment in connection with the shipments.

One of the findings of the probe is that the defense establishment now knows everything that happened with the money it received. Nevertheless, it was pointed out that the probe did not at all address what happened to other funds which the Iranians handed over directly to other dealers and liaison men, including officials, and which never reached Israel.

Shamir Discusses Economy, Iran Affair, Peace

TA251355 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1935 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yoram Ronen and political correspondent Yig'al Goren on the weekly "Moqed" program; place not given — live]

[Excerpts] [Ronen] Two months have passed since the rotation of the premiership, and Yitzhaq Shamir is appearing on the Moqed program in his capacity as prime minister for the first time tonight. Good evening to you, Mr Prime Minister.

[Shamir] Good evening.

[Ronen] Good evening to our political correspondent Yig'al Goren.

[Goren] Good evening.

[Ronen] It is only natural that we should begin this program with questions about economic issues. Mr Shamir arrived here straight from the first session of the economic cabinet on the budget cuts. These deliberations will presumably conclude in a compromise; Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz said this evening that such a compromise will take the soul out of the economic plan. Treasury officials believe that if the budget is not cut by 0.5 billion Israeli shekels it would be better to send the entire plan back to the Cabinet. My question is: Will there be a cut of 0.5 billion shekels?

[Shamir] I cannot tell you the exact sum, but there is no doubt that a cut will be effected. Expenditures will be cut because this is a necessity.

[Ronen] There is a serious argument about the cut in the defense budget. The Treasury demands a cut of 180 million shekels while the defense minister demands an increment of 150 million shekels.

[Shamir] This is natural, and I have said so on other occasions. It is very difficult to slash defense expenditures in view of the existing constrictions, the security situation, and the military armament of the Arab countries surrounding us. However, we will have to find a solution.

[Ronen] What you suggest is that there will be a cut in the defense budget but perhaps not as large as the Treasury proposes.

[Shamir] I did not say that. However, what I am saying is that a cut must be effected. The defense budget is a special case, a case all its own. [passage omitted]

[Goren] Mr Prime Minister, if the United States asks us to question the people involved in the affair of the arms shipments to Iran, will Israel comply with such a request and allow the Americans to question the pertinent people here in Israel?

[Shamir] From the outset we have told the U.S. Government that we are prepared to help and cooperate with it, as one must do with an ally. However, this cooperation must be between governments rather than between one government and the citizens of another government; this is how we will proceed.

[Goren] Sir, what do we actually have to hide? After all, we have been saying publicly that our hands are totally clean in this affair. So if we have nothing to hide, why should we not say: Please, come and question whomever you want?

[Shamir] We have nothing to hide, you are absolutely right. I once said that Israel's conscience is absolutely clean. However, as far as investigations are concerned it is not customary for foreign governments to interrogate the citizens of other governments. This may be settled by contacts between the governments; ways can be found to conduct an investigation.

[Goren] By means of questionnaires?

[Ronen] Such an investigation was conducted in the Pollard affair, when U.S. investigators questioned Israeli citizens.

[Shamir] That was a totally different case.

[Ronen] Still, there is a precedent.

[Shamir] The nature of the affair is different, and therefore that case cannot serve as a precedent. I do not want to go into details. We will find a way to cooperate with the United States without deviating from the principle of contacts between governments.

[Ronen] Mr Shamir, among other things your agreement with Shim'on Peres mentions the possibility of replacing 'Amiram Nir, the counterterrorism adviser. Do you intend to replace him or might such a move be construed as a dismissal, in view of his role in the affair of the arms shipments to Iran?

[Shamir] Look, if I ever decide to replace anybody this will have been agreed upon with Shim'on Peres. The first person to hear about it from me will be Shim'on Peres.

[Goren] Speaking of appointments, you once promised to give Minister Moda'i an executive portfolio as of January. Do you plan to bring Moda'i back to the Justice Ministry?

[Shamir] I cannot say that I promised an executive portfolio. In my opinion Minister Moda'i must be a member of the Cabinet with a specific portfolio. I will work to that end to the best of my abilities.

[Ronen] You also said that the justice portfolio was being entrusted with Minister Sharir for safekeeping. So, one and one make two.

[Shamir] Everybody can do his own arithmetic as he pleases. The truth is that Minister Sharir cannot simultaneously carry out two ministerial duties for a prolonged period of time. We will have to find a solution to this problem, just as we will have to find a solution to the problem of Minister Moda'i.

[Goren] You would not say though that giving the justice portfolio to Moda'i sounds illogical?

[Shamir] I did not say that.

[Goren] I am asking you.

[Shamir] Well, we will see.

[Ronen] Mr Shamir, this week the Foreign Ministry issued a new guideline to the effect that the Palestinian Charter should no longer be mentioned in Israel's publications abroad. Was this guideline, which may represent a change in our attitude toward the PLO, approved by you?

[Shamir] I did not hear the exact reasons behind this move, I only read about it in the press. However, I am certain that there are no differences of opinion between us over the principle that there should be no contacts with the PLO and that there will be no negotiations between Israel and the PLO. As for explaining the nature of the PLO in our publications, I believe we must thwart this murderous organization's drive to become a respectable and dignified body with whom one can talk and negotiate while in fact it is an organization of murderers, an organization whose objective is to annihilate a people. I think this should not be concealed from anybody and the PLO's true face must be exposed at every possible opportunity.

[Ronen] Then, you are in favor of mentioning the Palestinian Charter in our publications in contravention of the new guideline issued by the Foreign Ministry.

[Shamir] The Palestinian Charter is proof of the PLO's murderous and racial hatred of our people. Therefore, I would not rush to eliminate it from our publications.

[Ronen] Do you plan to discuss this with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and make him revoke this guideline?

[Shamir] We will certainly discuss this. I would like to hear his counterarguments.

[Goren] Despite the fact that we have been mentioning the Palestinian Charter for years the situation now is that the PLO has more representations around the world than the State of Israel.

[Shamir] Is that the reason why? Look, some of us occasionally feel the urge — an urge which I can neither understand nor come to terms with — to change policies which have been in effect for many years; these people feel that innovation may prompt change. For many years, ever since the PLO was established, we have tried to expose its murderous nature. Some people are tired of this and say this has been in vain. However, one may also say that had we not done this, the situation would have been far worse. I am sure about it.

[Goren] Still on the same issue: People in the Alignment say no progress will be made in the peace process if something is not done about holding an international conference. For almost 20 years we have been trying, so far unsuccessfully, to hold direct negotiations with Jordan. So, would it not be wise to look into the possibility of holding an international conference?

[Shamir] I would not say 20 years. As far back as I can remember, the principle upheld by all governments has been that peace between us and the Arab countries can only be attained through direct negotiations. All Israeli Governments without exception have objected to negotiations with the participation of various international elements, most of which object to our position. That is exactly why we have been insisting on direct negotiations — and it is very hard to object to such negotiations. Let us see: Who would take part in an international conference if such a conference were held today?

[Goren] The United States, the Soviet Union.

[Shamir] The Soviet Union holds a clearly extremist anti-Israeli position, and the same holds true about the PRC. None of the countries, not even the United States, support Israel's positions. Indeed, we would be pushed to a corner, we would be totally isolated, and we would be in an unbearable position whereas if we insist on the principle of direct negotiations we would be the other half of any negotiations.

[Goren] Sir, do you see even a remotely feasible chance for direct negotiations with Jordan or maybe there would be no sense in such negotiations since, as we also hear from you, we have a de facto peace with Jordan?

[Shamir] I would not hasten to make such a statement. What I say is that relations with Jordan are not the worst they could be, although I would prefer peaceful relations. I would like to reach the point of direct negotiations and I hope we will eventually. After all, did any of us expect to reach direct negotiations with Egypt 1 or 10 years earlier?

[Ronen] Still, the preliminaries for negotiations between us and Jordan were more or less concluded in the meeting between Shim'on Peres and Husni Mubarak in Alexandria. It was then explicitly stated that the way to direct negotiations is holding preparations for an international conference. This was the way agreed by both Peres, Mubarak and, perhaps, even Husayn.

[Shamir] Look, it is still not clear what sort of a conference this would be, who would take part in it, what the roles of the various participants would be, and whether when Shim'on Peres talks about an international conference he means the same thing Husni Mubarak and Husayn do. For example, I would agree to some sort of gathering [hitkansut] between us, Egypt, and Jordan.

[Goren] Without an international aegis?

[Shamir] What do we need that for?

[Goren] And what if Jordan poses this as a condition, saying it would enter negotiations only with an international umbrella?

[Shamir] Look, we talked about negotiations without preconditions. If Jordan wants to enter negotiations it must take our wishes into consideration.

[Ronen] Do Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Shamir mean the same when they talk about an international conference?

[Shamir] In any case, Shim'on Peres is closer to Yitzhaq Shamir than to Mubarak or a Soviet representative.

[Goren] Would it be correct to say that the Alignment believes that if such a process were to get under way you would ultimately not object to it despite your recent statements?

[Shamir] I think that those who think so are wrong. This is a matter of principle. I believe that holding an international conference based on the Soviet-Arab concept would put Israel in a very serious situation. [passage omitted]

Shamir To Pay 'Official Visit' to U.S. in Feb

TA242002 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will arrive in Washington on an official visit at the beginning of February at the official invitation of the U.S. Administration, our Washington correspondent Nisim Mish'al reports. Our correspondent adds that this will be the prime minister's first visit to the United States since he assumed power. The visit will take place in the midst of the congressional investigation of the Iran affair, and the question of Israel's involvement will most probably be raised in the talks Mr Shamir will hold in Washington.

U.S. State Department officials told our correspondent that the administration will also invite Egyptian President Husni Mubarak for an official visit in February. The administration wants Mubarak's visit to the United States to take place before Shamir's arrival.

Shin Bet Investigation Report Ordered Released

TA281955 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1910 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir did not give a directive to kill the terrorists who hijacked the No 300 bus. Mr Shamir also did not support the falsification of evidence following the event.

This transpires from the conclusions of the report of a commission set up by the Justice Ministry headed by the attorney general, which was given this morning to the prime minister, the vice prime minister, and the defense minister. Our correspondent Dan Scemama reports from the studio:

The commission of jurists dealt with two issues in its 65 page-long report: Was there a directive given beforehand, as was claimed by the Shin Bet chief, according to which he had the authority to decide on killing the terrorists on the No 300 bus. The second issue was whether the political echelon gave its support to the falsification of evidence after the fact? In these two issues the conclusion of the commission was that Yitzhaq Shamir never sanctioned the falsification of evidence. The team clearly states in many places of the report that Yitzhaq Shamir did not support the falsification of evidence.

The team clearly states in many places of the report that the claims of former Shin Bet chief Avraham Shalom should not be accepted, and that his comments were completely unreasonable. The team of jurists examined the claim of Avraham Shalom according to which he told Yitzhaq Shamir 2 days following the killing of the terrorists that he, the head of the Shin Bet chief, gave the order to kill them, and that from this it is clear that Yitzhaq Shamir knew about the affair from the beginning. From the investigation it appears that immediately following the incident Avraham Shalom told Shamir casually that the terrorists were killed by the order of then Defense Minister Moshe Arens. A day later Shalom apologized to Arens, saying that he made a mistake. A year and a half later, during his interrogation by the police, Avraham Shalom apparently forgot this incident, and therefore the team of jurists does not believe his version at all.

In the issue of the falsification of evidence all the Shin Bet people who have been interrogated said they acted on the assumption that the political echelon was backing up the falsification of evidence. However, nobody claimed that they actually heard this from the political echelon. They heard about it only from Avraham Shalom.

Another thing from the conclusions of the commission: One of the Shin Bet heads, Avraham Hazaq, who was the one who blew the affair open, knew about the falsification of the evidence and was involved in it. The members of the commission recommend not to open criminal proceedings against him because he was the one who uncovered the affair.

Several minutes ago it was reported that the prime minister asked the attorney general to publish the entire report to bring it to the public's knowledge.

Peres, Bethlehem Mayor Comment on PLO Offer

TA250607 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the PLO has not changed, and only when Yasir 'Arafat gives up terror and starts talking could Israel consider him as a potential partner for dialogue. Peres was speaking at Bethlehem last night at Mayor Ilyas Frayj's annual Christmas reception. Reporter Steve Weizman was there.

[Begin recording] [Weizman] Yesterday the Foreign Ministry confirmed press reports that Peres turned down an offer of direct negotiations made some 6 months ago by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. At last night's reception Peres explained why.

[Peres] I think 'Arafat can speak for himself, and when he will stop terror and start talking then we shall consider maybe a message did come. Unfortunately we are getting another way of information, by knives and by cartridges, and the PLO continues its violence, its terror. The attempt that was done by King Husayn, the joint committee to negotiate, was in vain. I still believe that the PLO is so busy with keeping its tools and forgetting its targets that nothing really has changed.

[Weizman] Neither Peres nor the Foreign Ministry would say if the 'Arafat proposal was accompanied by a willingness to recognize UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and the commitment to forgo the use of violence. Palestinian sources say 'Arafat was ready to make that step. Whatever the truth, Mayor Frayj says the 'Arafat offer was a significant step in itself.

[Frayj] It proves then that the Palestinians are sincere in their efforts to reach a peace agreement with Israel. They hope that the Israelis will in future respond in a more positive way. However, I personally highly respect Mr Peres. I don't know what the reasons were; I have not spoken with him about it. Had I known about it I would have spoken with him tonight about it. I will try to raise this question with Mr Peres in the coming weeks.

[Weizman] Both Peres and his ministry are treating the whole matter in a low-key fashion. We get plenty of these stories, said Peres. The rejection is in line with the existing government policy, says the Foreign Ministry.

In the meantime, diplomatic sources are awaiting the outcome of the forthcoming Islamic conference to be held next month in Kuwait. To a large extent, they say, progress on Middle East peace will depend on the outcome of that meeting. [end recording]

Peres Welcomes Frayj Proposal

TA272038 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2000 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] The vice prime minister this evening welcomed the proposal by the mayor of Bethlehem to halt acts of violence in the Middle East in 1987.

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that Shim'on Peres was speaking during celebrations taking place in Upper Nazareth, to mark 30 years since its establishment. He said Israel is willing to accept this suggestion and to halt hostilities not only for 1 year but for many years to come. However, he is afraid that the other side will not accept this. Mr Peres added that our willingness for peace does not stem from weakness but from our desire for peace and our ability to defend our country.

Frayj Discloses Shamir Talks

TA280720 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Dec 86 p 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj revealed yesterday that he had met last month for a political discussion with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at the premier's office in Jerusalem. It was the first such meeting Shamir has held in office with a local Palestinian leader.

Frayj told *The Jerusalem Post* that the talks had been "exploratory. We did not meet to negotiate," he said. "We exchanged views about current events and the situation. It was very useful, and I believe such meetings should be encouraged."

Frayj declined to give further details, and the prime minister's spokesman, Yosi Ahime'ir, refused comment. [passage omitted]

AL-SHA'B Editor Withdraws Deportation Appeal

TA261231 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] A short time ago Akram Haniyah, the editor of the East Jerusalem newspaper *Al-Sha'b*, abruptly withdrew the appeal to the High Court of Justice against the deportation order pending against him. According to our correspondent Arye Gus, Haniyah said that after the court prevented him and his attorneys from examining the secret material presented against him he reached the conclusion that they would not be given the opportunity to defend themselves against the arguments of the security forces. Haniyah said he was a victim of the struggle for the legitimate rights of his people and noted that his deportation would not halt this struggle.

At noon, his attorneys notified the High Court of Justice of Haniyah's decision. Our correspondent notes that Haniyah will probably be deported next week.

Leaves for Switzerland

TA280931 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Akram Haniyah, a member of Fatah and the editor of *Al-Sha'b*, left Israel this morning. He was brought to the airport in a police car and boarded a Swissair plane. An International Red Cross official escorted him to the plane. He left Geneva and will apparently continue from there to Algeria.

Akram Haniyah was charged with being involved in hostile activities against Israel on behalf of Fatah. He was going to appeal to the High Court of Justice about the deportation order pending against him but gave up.
One of he owners of *Al-Sha'b*, 'Ali Ya'ish, expressed his sorrow at the deportation of Akram Haniyah. He told our correspondent Arye Gus that this was a sad moment in the history of the newspaper. Our correspondent points out that the first editor of *Al-Sha'b* was deported from Israel 12 years ago.

Arab Newspapers To Strike

TA282001 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Two East Jerusalem newspapers, *Al-Sha'b* and *Al-Fajr*, will strike on Tuesday to protest the deportation of Akram Haniyah. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports this step is being taken on the recommendation of the Arab Journalists Association in the territories. The association denounced the deportation.

Jerusalem Interviews Egyptian Ambassador Basyuni

JN250838 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Interview with Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni by radio correspondent Bassam Jabir; date and place not given — recorded]]

[Text] [Jabir] Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni, 25 professors from American and Australian universities are currently visiting the country. You personally received them at your residence. Why the visit and what did the meeting involve?

[Basyuni] The reason for the visit was their desire to become acquainted with the reality of the situation in the region. I answered their questions about Egyptian-Israeli relations and peace efforts.

[Jabir] You have mentioned peace efforts. What have these efforts achieved?

[Basyuni] As you know, during the summit meeting in Alexandria last September between President Husni Mubarak and Mr Shim'on Peres it was agreed to hold an international conference for peace as a framework for talks. Now, efforts will continue within this context. General Avraham Tamir, director general of the Foreign Ministry, will visit Cairo next Sunday within this context.

[Jabir] Your Excellency, a number of Israeli ministers visited Egypt recently. It has been noticed that they are all from the Labor Party or from parties allied with the Labor Party and not from the Likud. Why doesn't Egypt invite ministers from the Likud to visit also?
[Basyuni] Egypt deals with the Israeli Government and not with individuals. The visits which take place are not carried out on a party basis, but on a governmental basis to discuss bilateral relations. For example, Minister Shahal visited Cairo as minister of energy to discuss topics in the field of petroleum. Professor Amnon Rubinstein also visited Cairo as minister of communications, as there are joint issues requiring solutions, such as telephone communication between Egypt and Israel and the possibility of direct communication between them through Sinai and not through the naval cable passing through Italy. Also, Likud ministers have visited Egypt, such as Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir.

[Jabir] Mr Ambassador, was the purchase of Israeli weapons by Iran discussed during the visits of Minister Shahal or Minister

Amnon Rubinstein to Cairo, as implied by some papers. What is Egypt's stand on this and why does Egypt support Iraq in this war?

[Basyuni] I confirm that this subject was not discussed at all during the visits of Minister Shahal or Minister Rubinstein to Cairo. I think, Mr Bassam that, if you had posed this question to the two ministers, they would have immediately confirmed that they did not discuss this subject with Egyptian officials.

As for Egypt's stand, this stand is clear, explicit, and final on this subject. Egypt believes it is necessary to halt this war which is escalating everyday. Egypt's support for Iraq falls within this framework. Iraq agrees to end the war, while Iran does not.

[Jabir] Mr Basyuni, do you think there is a possibility for a summit meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir?

[Basyuni] Only about 2 months have passed since the last summit meeting between Egypt and Israel. It is not customary to hold summit meetings between two countries at such close intervals unless there is an urgent need for that. As you know, the dialogue between the two leaders continues through the exchange of letters, as was published by the mass media.

[Jabir] Many thanks to Egypt's Ambassador to Israel Mr Muhammad Basyuni.

[Basyuni] You are welcome, Mr Bassam.

Reports Received From Egypt on Cairo Talks

TA251000 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
25 Dec 86 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Israel has received a report from Egypt on talks conducted there by Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

Davar has learned that Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni conveyed a report on these talks to Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir and to Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political adviser.

The Jordanian foreign minister spent a week in the Egyptian capital, where he held talks with government leaders there on the chances of promoting the peace process and on incorporating Jordan, together with a Palestinian delegation, in the peace process with Israel. Egypt also sent a report on the talks held by Hani al-Hasan, the PLO chairman's political adviser, in Cairo.

It emerges from the reports that obstacles still exist regarding the composition of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the structure of the international conference that is to accompany the talks.

IDF Soldiers Raid Lebanese Village 24 Dec

TA241550 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Excerpts] IDF soldiers carried out an operation in the village of Maydun in the eastern sector of Lebanon early this morning. Many terrorists were hurt and several buildings which served the terrorists were destroyed. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports:

[Begin recording] IDF soldiers, supported by attack helicopters, today carried out an operation in the village of Maydun, 3 km north of the security zone. This village served the terrorists as a point of departure for attacks on the security zone. Five structures that housed terrorists were destroyed and two vehicles were damaged. It is estimated that many terrorists, mainly Shi'ites of the Hizballah organization, were injured during the IDF operation. Our forces sustained no casualties.

IDF soldiers in Lebanon's eastern sector say that the terrain in the region is very rough, and a great deal of skill is needed to prevent the infiltration of terrorists. [passage omitted]

Until the Lebanese war the village of Maydun had been populated by thousands of residents. Upon the outbreak of the war many of the residents fled and terrorists took over. About 2 months ago dozens of terrorists attacked a South Lebanese Army [SLA] position south of Maydun. Many of the SLA soldiers were hurt. Lately SLA soldiers have carried out operations in the village of Maydun, killing terrorists, but it seems that, despite this activity, hostile elements established themselves in the village again. The IDF's Northern Command launches various types of oeprations against terrorists organizing in the regions adjacent to the security zone in southern Lebanon. [end recording]

Over 10 Lebanese Killed

TA250524 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] More than 10 terrorists were killed in the IDF attack on the village of Maydun, which lies beyond the security strip in southern Lebanon. The bodies of several terrorists are still trapped under the rubble from the destroyed buildings, and attempts continued throughout the night to remove them.

Our correspondent has learned from sources in Lebanon that the terrorists who were killed belonged to Hizballah and left-wing Shi'ite organizations.

Italian Interests Unharmed by Vanunu Affair

TA250955 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
25 Dec 86 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Last night Israel conveyed to the Italian Government the clarifications it had requested on the Vanunu affair. Mordekhay Drori, Israel's ambassador in Rome, met with the Italian Foreign

Ministry's political director general and handed him Israel's official reply. The ambassador asked the Italian Government not to take too much notice of Vanunu's attempts to attract attention and to arouse international public opinion in his favor.

In the Israeli document, which was probably formulated in consultations between Shamir and Peres, the Israeli Government claims that it did not harm Italy's interests. The government explains the background to the Vanunu affair and denounces his action as having done harm to the country's security and laws.

Ambassador Drori yesterday voiced the hope that the good relations between Israel and Italy will continue. People in Jerusalem believe that the entire affair will blow over in the coming days and that after the Christmas holidays the Italian press will cease covering the Vanunu case.

It is believed that the Italian Government will make do with submitting an official protest and will not create a political crisis. Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi has told correspondents that the minimum and maximum his country can do regarding the affair is to issue a protest to Israel.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir plans to hold a discussion shortly on the military censorship policy, following the publication of a photograph of Vanunu's hand in all the foreign newspapers.

[Tel Aviv *'Al Hamishmar* in Hebrew on 25 December on page onecarries a similar report by political correspondent Dalya Shehori and news agencies, which adds: "The content of the clarifications has not been reported, but it has been learned that the Foreign Ministry was to explain that Vanunu did not pass through Italy on his way to Israel."]

Vanunu Pleads Not Guilty

TA280923 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0900 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Mordekhay Vanunu has pleaded not guilty. Vanunu's trial opened this morning at the Jerusalem District Court. He is being charged with collaborating with the enemy in times of war and of aggravated espionage in grave circumstances. He was brought to court in a police car whose windows were painted white. Entrance to the floor on which the trial is being held was blocked, while trials proceeded as usual on other floors of the building.

Our correspondent Gil'ad Sher reports that Mordekhay Vanunu pleaded not guilty to the charges against him in the indictment. He did not talk during the hearing and his attorney, Amnon Zikhroni, replied for him. It is further noted that the deliberations before Justices Eliyahu No'am, Tzvi Tal, and Shalom Brenner lasted a little over 90 minutes. At the end of the hearing Vanunu was taken out of the court surrounded by several police and Border Police personnel, who covered his face with a canvas sack and a red umbrella.

Vanunu was brought to the Jerusalem District Court at 0500 this morning. Before the indictment was read he conferred with his attorney in private.

Our correspondent has learned that the next hearing will be held in approximately 1 and 1/2 months. It seems that Vanunu's attorney today raised preliminary arguments and therefore the hearing was extended. The issue of pressing additional charges against Vanunu due to the incidents with journalists last week was not raised at all.

'Mistake' by N.Y. Archbishop Provokes Criticism

TA281926 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Israeli officials say they will only be prepared to meet the New York archbishop, John O'Connor, in their offices in Jerusalem. O'Connor, who had scheduled meetings with Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Peres, said he would have to cancel them after being told that meeting Israeli leaders in Jerusalem was in violation of Vatican protocol. He said he would still be prepared to meet the Israelis but would not be able to call on them at their offices. Now the Israelis have made it clear that as far as they are concerned, the meetings can only take place in their offices.

Reaction to the O'Connor affair, however, has not been confined to Israeli officials, and there was criticism of the archbishop today from the Catholic apostolic delegation, and the Jewish Anti- Defamation League in Jerusalem, as well. With the details Steve Rodan:

[Begin recording] [Rodan] The Vatican envoy said the entire affair can be summed up in one sentence: Cardinal John O'Connor, head of the New York archdiocese made a mistake. The envoy said that had O'Connor announced he was making a pilgrimage to the holy land, and then a visit to Israeli leaders, the Vatican would not have sounded a word of protest; instead, O'Connor said he was going on a fact-finding mission. That was not religion, but politics, said a source in the apostolic delegate, the Vatican representation in Israel and Jordan. And, vatican foreign policy is made not in the New York archdiocese but in Vatican City. One Vatican diplomat said the Vatican does not think that a cardinal should mix in the politics of the Middle East. The Holy See has a firm policy about that. Still, the Vatican officials cannot give a reason why O'Connor is meeting with King Husayn and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i of Jordan, but they did not rule out that O'Connor would end up seeing Israeli leaders. O'Connor's personal envoy was in Jerusalem where he was working out the cardinal's schedule. Tonight he is in Amman.

Still, officials of Jewish organizations are angry and said that the O'Connor trip could hurt relations between Catholics and Jews. Rabbi David Rosenne is interreligious director of the Anti-defamation League in Israel.

[Rosenne] He is not going to have any official meeting with major political leaders, in other words, either the prime minister or the foreign minister or, let alone, the president during that particular visit. He can only sour the relationship and give the Jewish people a feeling that after 38 years the Vatican still has not come to terms with the reality of the State of Israel.

[Rodan] Rosenne said that if O'Connor intends not to meet with Israeli leaders, that perhaps it will be better if he does not come to Israel at all. [end recording]

Eytan Denies Asking Pollard for Reports on Leaders

TA261901 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Refa'el Eytan, a former adviser to the prime minister on terrorism, denies reports that he asked Jonathan Pollard to gather information for him from U.S. intelligence on Israeli leaders. The reports say Eytan asked for scandalous information on Cabinet ministers and Knesset members for political gains. Eytan told the Voice of Israel such reports were libelous and that, anyway, it was unlikely that U.S. intelligence would have such information on Israeli politicians.

Rabin Says Lavi To Continue Despite Budget Cuts

TA260620 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he is not considering cutting back the Lavi project as a result of the call for additional budget cuts for his ministry. He told reporter Alan Ben-'Ami that the Lavi project will continue:

[Begin recording] [Rabin] Now Mr Zakheim will come at the beginning of January. In accordance to the understanding between the United States and Israel they have to present alternatives to the Lavi in its wider scope to Israel. The kind of a plane to the Air Force, how will it not affect any alternative to the Lavi, the infrastructure of technology, industry and employment, and the cost of the termination of existing contracts if they have to come with alternatives to the Lavi. Allow me to remind you that the position of the government of Israel is that we will continue in the development and production of the Lavi.

[Ben-'Ami] But is there any possibility that with the economic situation as it is you may look more favorably on alternatives than perhaps in the past?

[Rabin] No change, at the present, of our position. [end recording]

Inner Cabinet Increases Security in Jerusalem

TA281631 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev said in today's Cabinet session that it has been decided to increase the presence of the security forces, police, and border police in Jerusalem, following the murder of Yitzhaq Amedi and the subsequent events.

Our correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that the Inner Cabinet has recently held a series of debates on the security situation in Jerusalem. Today the prime minister and police affairs minister gave a report on the conclusions drawn. Minister Bar-Lev said that at present there are almost three times more security personnel in Jerusalem then prior to Amedi's murder. These border police and police forces have been removed from other routine security tasks. Bar-Lev said it is not clear whether this beefed-up presence by the security forces will be maintained in future, but the Inner Cabinet has taken a decision in principle to maintain a large presence by the security forces in Jerusalem and to maintain top alert.

Minister Bar-Lev also said that as a result of the incidents which followed the murder of Amedi 52 Jews and 16 Arabs were detained. According to him there is no room for concern over disturbances on the part of the Jewish inhabitants of the Old City, except for the Shuvu Banim Yeshiva students. Bar-Lev claimed that this is an extremely problematic yeshiva which includes a number of eccentrics and persons with criminal records.

The Inner Cabinet did not decide on new regulations for treating the Jewish and Arab inhabitants of the Old City. Bar-Lev did not mention the possibility that there is a new Jewish underground in Jerusalem.

LIBYA

Tripoli Protests French Military Activity in Chad

LD241357 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1330 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has summoned the French ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah and conveyed to him the Great Jamahiriyah's protest over the policy of hostile escalation being adopted by the French Government in Chad, manifested in the dispatch of arms and the arrival of military aircraft in Ndjamena from French bases in Africa.

The committee reaffirmed to the French ambassador that the French attitude would lead to a serious escalation of the situation in Chad whose consequences will be borne by the French Government and that the Great Jamahiriyah will fully shoulder its responsibilities in confronting any danger threatening the security of its southern border.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets General People's Congress

LD281005 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0350 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] The brother Leader of the Revolution yesterday had a meeting with the secretaries of the municipalities' people's congresses and the Secretariat of the General People's Congress. The brother leader reaffirmed the consolidation of the people's authority. He pointed out the need to augment the people's committees for defense at the 3rd ordinary session of the basic People's Congresses.

On Duties of Defense Committees

LD281212 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
0940 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 28 December (JANA)—[passage omitted] The leader of the revolution said that among the first duties of the people's committees for defense is to implement the rotation of the armed people, the main advantage of which is the abolition of compulsory conscription, equality among the masses, and abolition ofprofessional militarism. Through them the people as a whole will be trained to carry arms and to carry out the work which was assigned to the regular army. Consequently, victory will be secured in any battle. Furthermore, when there is no professional militarism the money paid out in wages for soldiers will be saved, and in peace time this rotation will carry out organized collective work.

The leader also stressed the need to attend the meetings of the basic people's congresses in their various sessions and said, those who do not attend will be crossed off our records [saqit qayd], lose citizenship rights, and must not be offered any services by the people's committees or their institutions. He stressed that the measures adopted in this context come as affirmation and consolidation of the people's authority where all the people have the right and the duty to exercise authority and sovereignty.

JANA Editor on 'Shameful' Remarks of UK's Howe

LD281357 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
0800 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Dec JANA — Statements by Geoffrey Howe, the foreign minister of child-killer Thatcher's government, concerning what he called the Soviet forces' intervention in Afghanistan and calling for the withdrawal of these forces were reported by the media yesterday.

The international affairs editor of JANA commented on these statements, saying: It is truly shameful that a person like Geoffrey Howe should talk about the Foreign Ministry of a country whose army has been torturing the Irish people for many years after having seized their land, taken away their freedom, and imposed a repressive regime on them. The last person with the right to talk about these issues is the foreign minister of the government of the child-killer who, since she came to power has relied on the policy of occupation and intervention as a program for her external relations with the world's peoples. She has been trying hard to return the world to the era of colonial empires and their protectorates. This hateful colonialist mentality does not understand, and it must only be dealt with in the way pursued by the IRA and Irish revolutionaries to liberate their country from the detested British colonialism.

MAURITANIA

New Foreign Minister Named, Cabinet Reshuffled

LD261106 Kuwait KUNA in English
1015 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Nouakchott, Dec 26 (KUNA) — Mauritania has announced a cabinet reshuffle in which Foreign Minister Lieutenant-Colonel Ahmed Ould Minnih was replaced by Commander Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane.

A communique issued by Mauritania's presidential office Friday said Ahmed Ould Minnih has been appointed chief of staff of the national Armed Forces to replace Lieutenant-Colonel Diallo Mohamed who has now become commander of National Guard under the Superior Military Committee.

The new foreign minister was formerly commander of Mauritania's Sixth Military District, minister of equipment and director of the country's security bureau.

Observers here believe that the the cabinet reshuffle is aimed at strengthening government control of the Armed Forces.

Mauritania has been ruled by military men since 1978. The Armed Forces have always played an important role in keeping the national unity and political stability of the country.

Niger President Ends Working Visit 24 Dec

AB242108 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French
1430 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Niger President Brigadier General Seyni Kountche's friendly working visit to Mauritania has ended. He was seen off

at 1300 by Colonel Maaouiya Sid 'Ahmed Ould Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state. This visit enabled the two heads of state to discuss issues of common interest to them. These include ways and means to combat the drought in the Sahel region, subregional cooperation, and the situation in Africa as well as in several hotbeds in the world. During this visit, the two heads of state held identical views on the issues discussed. [passage omitted]

SUDAN

Al-Mahdi Addresses Nation on Christmas Eve

JN250950 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 25 (SUNA) — Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi Wednesday welcomed the citizens in the southern Sudan who abandoned violence and terrorism and resorted to peace.

Addressing the nation on the occasion of the Christmas Eve Al-Mahdi welcomed the citizens who laid down arms and returned voluntary to the country.

"Violence is unjustifiable and you are welcome in your country, to take part in its building process," Al-Mahdi said. He appealed to those who were currently carrying arms to reject serving alien plots and abandon violence.

Al-Mahdi described those who were carrying the arms as alien tools and that they should decisively be confronted saying that the self-defence was a legitimate matter in all religious traditions and codes.

Al-Mahdi noted that the proposed consitutional conference would discuss religious and political issues to reconcile between the citizenship rights and the religious commitment in order to define the Arabic and African affiliation.

He noted that the policies of ousted dictator Numayri which had neglected the livelihood issues in the Sudan in general and the south in particular motivated some southerners to carry arms.

"In 1985 the Sudanese people was fully mobilized against the ousted dictator Numayri's regime and had succeeded in creating a new change by its April uprising", he said.

He remarked that the new democratic system in Sudan had extended a peaceful arm to put an end to the violence and paved the way for peaceful dialogue to terminate dirputes by the political reconciliation.

"But the leadership of those who took arms refused to resort to peace and escalated its military operation as if the regime of dictator Numayri is still existing," Al-Mahdi noted.
He called for working out basis of fraternity charter among the religious which was based on faith of Almighty. Al-Mahdi said that Sudan was the country of tolerance and qualified to adopt the message of fraternity and tolerance among the religious.

SPLM-SPLA Declares 3-Day Christmas Cease-fire

EA241632 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] The SPLM-SPLA Military-Political High Command has released a statement declaring a 3-day cease-fire on the occasion of Christmas. Here is the full text of the statement: In response to the request of the [words indistinct], the SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command unilaterally declares a cease-fire beginning at 2400 on 23d December 1986 to 2400 [words indistinct] This cease-fire does not include moving targets, whether by land, river, rail or air, and all SPLA units [words indistinct] (?targets) so that the enemy does not take advantage of the good gesture of the [words indistinct]. In this connection the Commander in Chief of SPLM-SPLA (?wishes to) [words indistinct] all Sudanese a happy New Year, hoping that those who (?call) themselves [words indistinct] and brag about exterminating (?the southern Sudanese) [words indistinct] democracy, prosperity, peace, equality for all Sudanese irrespective of race, skin color, religion, or family background.

Interior Minister Dicusses Riots, Security

JN241815 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 22 Dec 86 p 18

[Interview with Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn by *Al-Siyasah* correspondent 'Abd al-Rahman al-Amin in Khartoum — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Amin] We welcome your excellency to this interview, which will really be in the form of a dialogue. We will touch on a broad spectrum of issues. The most important topic to begin with is perhaps your statement to the Constituent Assembly a few weeks ago during its emergency session to discuss the riots and acts of sabotage in Khartoum on 25 October and the days that followed. Can your excellency tell our readers exactly what happened?

[Al-Husayn] I welcome the Kuwaiti *Al-Siyasah* and it is my pleasure to meet with you in this office to conduct this dialogue and answer all your questions. What happened on 25 October and the days that followed were planned and organized riots. The information available to us confirmed that there was a certain political side which I named before the Constituent Assembly, the Islamic National Front to be specific. The plan was to stage demonstrations in Khartoum and the regions simultaneously. The slogans were united, the leaflets were already prepared, and it was planned that the riots would spread to all Sudanese cities. This is what the leaflets stated. [passage omitted]

The same organization tried to stage riots in other regions but the plot was foiled, and public opinion in Sudan was against this sabotage plot. They are still talking about mobilization in the Khartoum University student bodies. They are starting with attacks on the constitutional amendments and are doing all they can to hamper these amendments because they are to rectify some inherited conditions. During the defunct Numayri regime, many groups acquired illegal profits, and this should be dealt with constitutionally. The constitutional amendments are not intended to grant the executive authority rights which are not

subject to the judicial authority. The main amendment is concerned with Article 16 of the constitution on removing the effects of the Numayri regime, administrative reform, and some other related issues. [passage omitted]

[Al-Amin] Mr Minister, in your statement at the Constituent Assembly meeting to discuss the riots, you frankly accused the Islamic National Front of masterminding these riots. You have reiterated this charge in this interview. My question is: Did the elements of the defunct state security organ take part in these riots?

[Al-Husayn] Yes. During the first and second days of the riots, certain persons from this organ appeared and participated in the riots. But when they realized that the aurhorities were vehemently confronting these riots, they withdrew, leaving behind elements of the Islamic National Front. I would like to say that our organs monitored certain persons from the May regime who were making certain moves. However, we did not arrest them because we did not have enough evidence to make them appear in court. The security information we obtain does not provide us with enough evidence to arrest people because they are not emergency laws. Unless we have evidence that can be accepted by the court, we do not arrest suspects. [passage omitted]

[Al-Amin] What are the criteria by which you allow demonstrations and marches?

[Al-Husayn] Basically and in general, the right to stage demonstrations in protected by law. This is a form of expression. However, these demonstrations are governed by certain rules related to tribal prejudices, the war in the south, and the remnants of the defunct regime who had certain interests and want to undermine the new democratic system. Therefore, we consider petitions for demonstrations in light of the information we have. When we realize that what is intended by the demonstration is to create disturbances and riots rather than express a political opinion, we reject this petition. Sometimes we receive a petition from a certain political body which wants to stage a demonstration to provoke another political body to clash with it. In general, we do not grant permission for demonstrations to create disturbances and undermine security. Therefore, our criteria are subject to the information we receive. This information must be documented. [passage omitted]

[Al-Amin] I read here in Khartoum a newspaper report about the government's intention to establish a new apparatus which will deal with both internal and external security in place of the former state security apparatus. Can you tell us about the new system?

[Al-Husayn] What is new is that both organs will be attached to the Interior Ministry. The transitional government attached both organs to the police force, like central intelligence. They are part of the police department, which is part of the Interior Ministry. What is new is that the elected government has found it better to separate the external security apparatus and make it independent, like the police department, which is attached to the Interior Ministry. So the elected government has found it better to separate the external security apparatus and attach it to the Interior Ministry. Therefore, the internal as well as the external security organs are now part of the Interior Ministry. The internal security organ is the same, that is, it is part of the police department and hence, of the Interior Ministry. From an organizational point of view, the external security apparatus is now part of the Interior Ministry because it will have many tasks and various duties. We are now endeavoring to enact a law for this apparatus which will define its duties and the tasks of its members. We want it to be a national apparatus such as the police and the Armed Forces. We do not think that this apparatus will have executive powers but will collect information and analyze it. As for its executive tasks, they will be referred to the central intelligence department and other police organs. [passage omitted]

[Al-Amin] Let us move on to the war in the south. To what extent has this war affected the country's security?

[Al-Husayn] This war has certainly affected the northern part of the country. We are in dire need of security and stability to deal with development. The war exhausts our resources and greatly affects our security because we are a democratic regime which allows many political organizations freedom of expression, work, and movement in the country. There are also other problems engendered by the war, such as the displacement of persons because they fear for their lives and property and to avoid starvation. These circumrtances affect security. No matter what we do as departments, we cannot know the real motives of those who leave the south for the north. The conditions which we inherited from Ja'far Numayri created racial problems. There are many elements that sympathize with the current rebellion in the south. This rebellion has created tribal problems, looting, and crimes, and threatened national unity. Certain groups were formed to loot and destroy property indiscriminately and regardless of whether John Garang wins or loses. The flow of arms in the south has aggravated the situation even more. [passage omitted]

TUNISIA

Minister Mabrouk Speaks on Foreign Policy

LD261413 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Under the chairmanship of its speaker Mahmoud Messaadi and in the presence of Prime Minister Kachid Sfar and a number of ministers, the Tunisian Chamber of deputies this morning listened to the replies by Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk to the questions of the chamber members.

Hedi Mabrouk began his replies by saying that President Habib Bourguiba has asked him to convey his loving feelings to Messaadi and his most sincere feelings and encouragement because of the work they are conducting firmly, seriously, and boldly. He brought the good tidings to the deputies that President Bourguiba, who is now in Paris, is in good health and through the media, is daily following the progress of life and the work of the chamber in Tunisia, all of which arouses his pride and reassures him about the present and future of our country.

The foreign minister then began to speak about the established principles of our foreign policy. He said that it was inspired by

Bourguiba's philosophy and genius and that the changes that take place occasionally involve persons and methods of action, but not the essence of the policy.

Hedi Mabrouk also spoke of the organic link between the foreign and domestic policy. He said that Tunisian diplomacy's duty was to present Tunisia in an honorable manner, and this in turn demands the cooperation of all capabilities so that the Tunisian diplomatic corps would live up to the level of Tunisia's foreign stature and would serve our country's economic causes.

Hedi Mabrouk then spoke of the unification of the Arab Maghreb. He pointed out that the political will for realizing this dream derives its roots from the wide, popular ambition of all the region's countries. This is in addition to the current international economic conditions which dictate the creation of unified fronts to face up to the economic groupings formed in the world and to save us from competing individually and weakly, thus making us easier to crush.

He affirmed that the Tunisian Government's views on the creation of the Arab Maghreb were founded on realistic foundations which bolster bilateral relations, in addition to contributing to reconciliation among the region's member countries when they have problems and to working seriously to bolster economic relations. The visit by Tunisian Prime Minister Rachid Sfar to Algeria and the Tunisian Foreign minister to Morocco and Mauritania provide the best proof of this fraternal policy toward all the countries of the region.

The positive results of the steps we have taken toward economic integration, he said, have shown the need to continue along the road bourguiba has chosen for us.

Hedi Mabrouk welcomed the idea of creating a parliamentary structure among Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and Mauritania. He added that the Tunisian Government will seek to facilitate this interparliamentary cooperation.

Hedi Mabrouk then spoke of the visit by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to Tunisia. He said it falls within the framework of information and fruitful consultation, which characterizes the relations between the two countries, while each of them preserves the established principles of their own policy. He said Tunisia derives its policy from Bourguiba's genius and wisdom and the will of the Tunisian people.

With regard to our policy towards Libya, Hedi Mabrouk pointed out that we are a country that adheres to good neighborliness with all the Arab countries and that we have long standing relations with the Libyan people, which makes us always deal with them in a fruitful and honest manner. Recently, he said, Libya has expressed a desire for rapprochement to be followed by the restoration of diplomatic relations and the solving of problems. But Tunisia expressed the desire to solve the problems before restoring diplomatic relations. It seems that these days agreement is moving in this direction; but, as matters stand now, there is no radical solution.

With regard to the Saharan problem, he pointed out that it was a thorny one. He added that without abandoning its responsibility, Tunisian diplomacy has been tackling the matter most carefully, out of the feelings of balanced friendship and fraternity between all the sides. He added: Our strong relations with the three countries will help us to participate in finding a solution for the Saharan problem.

With regard to our relations with the Arab world, he pointed out that Tunisia adheres to Arab fraternity. This is because its heart is arab. He added that Tunisia's relations with the Arab world are not affected by economic considerations. He announced that on the instructions of President Habib Bourguiba, the Tunisian foreign minister will pay a series of preliminary visits, to be followed by visits at the highest level, for furthering contacts with the Arab world.

Speaking of Tunisia's attitude toward the Gulf conflict, Hedi Mabrouk reiterated Tunisia's absolute support for fraternal Iraq in its war against Iran and its earnest desire for halting the bloodshed by peaceful means and through negotiation. He spoke in this regard of the efforts which were exerted and continue to be exerted by Tunisian diplomacy and about the contacts Tunisia has made within the framework of the 7-member committee to end the conflict.

Hedi Mabrouk then spoke of our position toward the Palestinian question. He affirmed that Tunisia — president, government, and people — is concerned about this issue and adheres stubbornly to its stands of sincere and serious support for it, and to offering sacrifices and utilizing all capabilities for serving Palestine.

The Tunisian foreign minister then spoke of our relations with the United States and the European countries. He said that our cooperation with these countries has no effect on our political line, which stems from the Bourguibite philisophy and popular willpower, and was based on respect for democracy, human rights, and the freedom of the individual, which he said were all from established elements of Tunisian domestic policy.

Referring in particular to our relations with the EEC, which have recently witnessed some difficulties, Hedi Mabrouk said that a large part of these difficulties has been overcome thanks to the help of Spain, in particular.

With regard to our communities abroad, Hedi Mabrouk said that they number 400,000 people including 293,000 in France. He affirmed that the diplomatic service pays great attention to our communities with a view to safeguarding their rights and defending their dignity and utilizing all capabilities to serve them through the consulates and social and cultural attaches. He added that the religious aspect also enjoys the attention of Tunisian diplomacy abroad. In this respect, attention is centered in particular on the second generations, to protect them from the loss of Arab and Islamic identities.

Hedi Marbouk affirmed that the current stay of President Habib Bourguiba in Paris calls for reassurance and pride in the hearts of our sons.

Concluding, Hedi Mabrouk said: Before leaving Paris, I asked President Habib Bourguiba whether he had any instructions he wishes me to carry to the chamber. He added that the president told him that he had no instructions for the Chamber of Deputies

because it was an elected authority which performs its role with no need for instructions from me.

Speaker Mahmoud Messaadi then took the stand. He expressed the chamber's pride in the noble paternal feelings expressed to them by President Habib Bourguiba through his foreign minister. This, he said, provides the best incentive for the deputies to continue forward with their parliamentary mission in the best possible manner.

After that, the chamber approved the Foreign Ministry's budget bill and moved on to consider the Ministry of Interior's budget bill for the coming year in the presence of Interior Minister Zine Labedine ben Ali. The total allocations for this ministry amount to 184.11 million Tunisian dinars, representing an increase of 63.4 percent.

The Chamber of Deputies a short while ago began debate on this latter budget. We will report to you about the discussions in our future bulletins.

Sfar Receives Mauritanian Foreign Minister
LD241505 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Rachid Sfar this morning received Mauritanian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ould Minnih. The Mauritanian minister conveyed Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya's greetings to the supreme combatants, President Habib Bourguiba, and his wishes of good health for him and continued progress for the Tunisian people.

The Mauritanian foreign minister said the talks were fraternal and amiable and focused on bilateral relations, which he said are excellent and will develop and strengthen. He said the talks also dealt with many issues of mutual concern. [passage omitted]

ETHIOPIA

Cuban Delegation Arrives in Addis Ababa

EA252249 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] A delegation led by Comrade George Risquet Valdes, Politburo member and secretary of the PCC Central Committee, arrived in Addis Ababa this afternoon for a friendly and working visit, during which they will hold talks on the basis of the cordial relations between the WPE and the PCC.

They were met on arrival at Bole International Airport by Comrade Shimeles Mazengia, Politburo member and secretary of the WPE Central Committee. Present at the ceremony were Comrade Ushagre Yigletu, member and secretary of the WPE Central Committee, and Comrade (Antonio Perez Ferreiro), member of the PCC Central Committee and Cuban ambassador to revolutionary Ethiopia. Among the delegates who arrived today, is Comrade (Raul Valdisu), member of the PCC Central Committee and director of (Nikokekez) Political School.

Meets With WPE Members

EA271449 Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1600 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Comrade Fisseha Desta, Politburo member and secretary of the WPE Central Committee, today received and held talks with the delegation led by Comrade Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Cuban Central Committee. Comrade Fisseha and Comrade Risquet Valdes held lengthy discussions on existing relations between the two parties.

Meanwhile, Comrade Berhanu Bayeh, Politburo member of the WPE Central Committee and foreign minister, received and held talks with Comrade Risquet Valdes on bilateral relations.

In a related development, Comrade Ashagre Yigletu, member and secretary of the WPE Central Committee, held discussions with the delegation on the exchange of experiences between the WPE and the Cuban Communist Party.

Holds Talks With Mengistu

EA271455 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1000 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE Central Committee, chairman of the PMAC, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, has received and held talks with Comrade Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Cuban Communist Party. During the ceremony, which was held at the comrade secretary general's special office at the WPE Central Committee today, our comrade revolutionary leader discussed with Comrade Risquet the further strengthening of friendship between revolutionary Ethiopia and revolutionary Cuba with particular reference to the bilateral party relations. Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam and Comrade Jorge Risquet Valdes also exchanged views on prevailing international issues.

Present at the ceremony were: Comrade Berhanu Bayeh, member of the Politburo of the WPE Central Committee and foreign minister; Comrade Ashagre Yigletu, member and secretary of the WPE Central Committee; and Comrade Antonio Perez Herrero, member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee and Cuban ambassador to revolutionary Ethiopia.

SOMALIA

Committee Announces Reelection of Siad Barre

EA281529 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Today the chairman of the Central Election Committee, Challe Ahmad Hasan Sheikh Abdullah, announced the final outcome of the SDR presidential election. The election was held on 23 December 1986 in accordance with clause 43, section two, of the SDR presidential election law No 30 enacted on 16 November 1986.

The chairman said that 4,869,120 persons cast their votes. Of this total, 4,865,691 voted yes, 1,463 voted no, and 1,966 votes were invalid. Therefore, the SDR Presidential Election Committee declares that Challe Mohamed Siad Barre has been officially elected SDR president for the next 7 years.

Rally Supports Reelection

EA282222 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Excerpts] A mammoth rally has been held to express support for the reelection of the SDR president for the next 7 years. Hundreds of thousands of people, including members of the armed forces and social organizations and members of the public from the various districts of Benadir region attended the rally at Mogadishu stadium this afternoon. The participants expressed their delight and support for the reelection of the SDR president, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre. The rally was attended by Challe Siad: the two vice-presidents, Challe Lieutenant-General Mohamed Ali Samantur and Challe Husein Kulmiye Afrah. [passage omitted]

Addressing the rally, SDR President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre praised and congratulated the people of Somalia for declaring their wishes during the election. The president also praised and thanked all the various committes that took part in election work. Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, the SDR president, promised and vowed that over the next 7 years he would lead the country on the same smooth and straight path along which he has led the country for the past 17 years. He said it was imperative for the general public of Somalia to play their role in the interests of the Somali nation.

The SDR president added that with the support of the Somali people, the government would surmount any obstacle that might hinder the progress of the nation. Challe Siad noted that over the past 17 years the country has experienced various calamities andthis experience will help the Somali nation to overcome any difficulties that may lay ahead.

Challe Siad, whose address at the rally was interspersed with patriotic songs, verse and applause, said that recently reactionary elements opposed to the unity and progress of the Somali nation had emerged in various forms. He said tribalism was the number one enemy of the Somali nation. He called on the Somali people to free themselves from tribalism and other phenomena that might obstruct the nation's progress. He urged them to work collectively for the speedy implementation of the nation's objective.

SDR President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre called on all Somalia to turn its attention to the production sector and make every effort to make this nation self-sufficient in food. [passage omitted]

President on USSR Ties, One-Party State

AU291253 Rome ANSA in English
1221 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, December 29 — Somalia, which has just resumed diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union, wants "normal relations, and nothing more", with Moscow, Somali President Siad Barre said in an interview with the Roman daily, *Il Messaggero*, today.

Barre, now 67, was re-elected as Somali president for a further seven-year-mandate yesterday. "The Soviet Union is a superpower which has very close ties with Addis Ababa", he said when asked if he sees Moscow as a more probable path for settlement with Ethiopia than other capitals. "It just does not suit us to have it as an enemy".

According to Barre, Somali "mistrust" towards Ethiopia remains "deep". "On the other hand," he asserted, "it had age-old origins. The Ethiopians used to push down as far as our region to steal our cattle and rape our women".

"But seeing that we must live here, we want to use every means to create a climate of detente in the area.

"This seems a propitious moment, and we will do everything to avoid losing it".

Barre also denied that requests from some Ethiopian refugees to return to their homeland should be read as a "criticism" of Somalia.

"Why should it be?" He asked. "It's natural to have nostalgia for one's own land. But, for the moment, those who can and want to return are a very small minority, living in a very hot, poor and truly inhospitable area".

"It's difficult to live for years off charity, and integration is long and difficult".

Asked whether Somalia's system of a one-party state was an obstacle to progress, he replied:

"To reach the point of a European-style democracy needs politically mature people.

"Before me, there were about eighty parties linked to the various tribes. They killed each other in the streets.

"We approve of ideological pluralism, but not when it is a pretext for leaving the field open to tribal antagonism".

Ambassadors to SFRY, Turkey Defect to UK, Canada

EA261621 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Recently two experienced ambassadors resigned from their posts in the Foreign Ministry of Siad Barre's regime. They are Hashi Shaykh Musa, who served in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, and asked Britain for political asylum, and Uthman 'Abd al-Rahman Zayli, who served in Ankara, Turkey, and asked Canada for political asylum.

SNM Units Attack Army Bases, Destroy One

EA272139 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Units of the Somali National Movement, SNM, wing of the liberation forces launched a bitter attack on the regime's forces stationed at Gumburra, Balli (Cabaneh) and Balli (Gubatleh), all in Hargeisa District in the northwest region of the country.

On the evening of 24 December the SNM fighters attacked the 50th Battalion of the 2d Brigade of the 26th Division of the Somali Army. The SNM units inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy forces. The SNM fighters killed the commander of the 50th Battalion, Colonel Nagaye, 4 other officers, and 110 soldiers. The SNM forces also wounded many soldiers. [passage omitted]

The reports add that the SNM fighters completely destroyed the base of the 50th Battalion at Gumburra, 30 km away from Hargeisa.

The SNM fighters lost four martyrs. Fifteen fighters were wounded. One vehicle mounted with a field gun was also lost.

CHAD

Further Reportage on Tibesti Region Battles

France Drops More Supplies

LD241340 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 24 Dec 86

[From the news headlines]

[Text] A war at Christmas in northern Chad, where, for the second time, France has dropped equipment by parachute to the forces fighting the Libyan Army.

Official Denies Operation

AB241535 Paris AFP in French 1527 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Ndjamena, 24 Dec (AFP) — The Chadian Government "categorically" denied on Wednesday afternoon that another parachuting operation was carried out by France in the Tibesti mountain area. Moumine Togoi, secretary of state at the Chadian Presidency in charge of information and orientation, "categorically and formally denied" this report in an interview with AFP.

24 December Communique

AB241352 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1330 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Communique issued by the Chadian National Armed Forces High Command in Ndjamena on 24 December — live or recorded]

[Text] The attack launched on Zouar on 21 December was violently repelled by the patriotic forces which inflicted heavy human and material losses on the enemy troops.

This morning, Wednesday, 24 December, at 0600 local time [0500 GMT], the enemy troops attacked Zouar using colossal air and ground forces. In successive waves, the enemy air force dropped all types of bombs on the Chadian civilian population in the region. Fierce fighting is in progress, inspired by the determination of the patriotic freedom fighters to drive Al-Qadhdhafi's aggressor troops out of the national territory.

France To Deploy Troops

LD241942 Paris Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] In Chad the official in charge of French military affairs is planning to post advance forces on either side of the 16th parallel. This would provide, if needed, a relay for the operations undertaken by the Chadian regular forces. A column of about 1,000 Chadian soldiers is moving toward the Tibesti region to back up Goukouni Oueddei's supporters, who are still fighting the Libyan Army.

Further on Deployment

LD242216 Paris International Service in French 2030 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] [Announcer] In Chad it is still as difficult as ever to know exactly what is happening on the ground. Today Libya is reported to have made a new attack on the town of Zouar in the extreme north of Chad. This news, announced by official Chadian sources in Ndjamena, has been confirmed in Paris by Goukouni Oueddei's private secretary. Zouar is even said to be on fire after a violent bombardment by the Libyan Air Force.

Today's other news concerning Chad is the possibility envisaged by France of setting up advance posts around the 16th parallel. In fact (Daniel Desesquel), France seems to want to modify its operation there in the light of the development of the situation on the ground.

[(Desesquel)] It is impossible to find out from the French authorities whether or not an air drop was, indeed, made today in Zouar in the Tibesti where Goukouni Oueddei's men are being given a hard time by the Libyan troops and Air Force. Paris admits to having supplied logistic aid to the supporters of the former GUNT president, but operational secrecy shrouds the exact form of that aid. It has also been learned from well-informed sources that Paris is thought to be on the point of modifying its Epervier [codename for French operation] operation, which is essentially an air-based deterrent. According to this information, French units are said to be deploying at Kouba Olanga in the west and at Oum Chaloubs in the east, two places around the 16th parallel where there is a clear strategic interest. If this information is confirmed, Paris would be reaffirming its presence on the ground without going against its sacrosanct line of not getting involved in any adventures north of the 16th parallel. Above all, however, these two bases would serve, if this was necessary, as effective relief bases for the Chadian National Army for military operations in the north.

In any case, Paris appears to be adapting itself to the course of developments on the ground. If it is out of the question for French troops to come to the assistance of Goukouni Oueddei's FAP [Patriotic Armed Forces] or to Hissein Habre's [Chadian National Armed Forces], the French high command appears to be preparing the means for rear support of the Chadian fighters. In Zouar, the fighters under siege are waiting impatiently for the reinforcements of a column said to comprise a force of 1,000 men and several hundred vehicles, which left Ndjamena 8 days ago and has been slow in arriving in Tibesti.

[Announcer] To conclude, as I was telling you in the headlines, the French Ministry of Defense and the Chadian Government have denied that there has been a new air drop of French equipment to Goukouni Oueddei's supporters who are fighting the Libyan forces.

Libyans Repelled at Yebi Bou

AB251232 Paris AFP in English 1228 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Ndjamena, Dec 25 (AFP) — Chadian forces repelled a Libyan attack on the oasis of Yebi Bou, in the eastern Tibesti

mountains in the north of the country, it was announced here Thursday. [25 December]

Secretary of State at the Presidency Moumine Togoi Hamidi said the Libyans suffered heavy losses in men and equipment after launching the attack on the outpost at 1500 GMT Wednesday.

He added however that the government here expected further Libyan attacks in the near future.

Libyan forces attacked the town of Zouar in the Tibesti region on Wednesday, and although they were repulsed they were still laying siege and "massacring" the population, Mr Togoi Hamidi said.

25 December Communique

AB251253 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Communique issued by the Chadian National Armed Forces High Command on 25 December in Ndjamena]

[Text] The Libyan aggressor forces are obstinately carrying out their aggression against the Chadian people. In pursuing their strategy aimed at quickly overcoming the rear bases of the patriotic forces in order to launch offensives deeper inside the Chadian territory, the Libyans attacked Zouar on 24 December at 6 o'clock [0500 GMT] in the morning. They werenot content with this. That same afternoon it was the turn of Yebi Bou, where fighting began at 1600 [1500 GMT] and ended only at about 2000 [1900 GMT]. The fighting was exceptionally violent. The enemy was repelled by the patriotic forces.

Meanwhile, the Libyan aggressor troops are engaged in all sorts of extortions against the civilian population in the Zouar region. The High Command of the Chadian National Armed Forces assures the patriotic forces fighting against the common enemy of the total support of all active forces of the Chadian nation.

Al-Qadhdhafi Reported at Largeau

LD261510 Paris Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Here is a piece of news which should be taken with a grain of salt: Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi is reportedly in the Largeau palm grove in Chad after first visiting Aozou.

Togui Denies Report on Rebels

AB261629 Paris AFP in French 1508 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Ndjamena, 26 Dec (AFP) — [passage omitted] Moumine Togoi Hamidi, Chadian secretary of state at the Presidency in charge of information, has criticized reports from Tripoli that it was Chadians in opposition to President Hissein Habre's regime who are fighting Goukouni Oueddei's forces in the Tibesti. Togoi felt that this was pure "disinformation." "Everyone knows that no opposition exists. It is a pure lie," Togoi Hamidi told AFP. "Those fighting against Libya in the Tibesti are Chadians, grandchildren of those who accompanied General Leclerc" (who, at the head of the second armored division, led the Tripoli campaign against German troops during World War II).

"These diplomatic circles (who mentioned in Tripoli the presence of Chadians in opposition to Hissein Habre among the Libyan forces) are playing the game of Al-Qadhdhafi in his advanced flight. 'They' are scared of Al-Qadhdhafi. 'They' adopt the policy of latitudes and longitudes and 'they' are ashamed to say they give assistance to the Chadian people," the minister added. "Certainly, our friends cannot do everything for us and on our behalf, but there are things that should not be said," continued Togoi Hamidi,who denounced these "stabs in the back, whoever the perpetrators may be." "History is formidable. Chad will recover its entire territory and emerge nobly from these events," he concluded.

Togui Hamidi also pointed out that the Chadian Government has not "censored the press in the Western sense of the word." "There has been no strong decision which can justify the shock expressed by the public opinion, and particularly the American press," he added.

"We have decided to control information due to circumstances." According to Togoi Hamidi, this control is justified by the fact that "we are at war and the distortion of certain facts can mean the death of Chadian soldiers." "So far," Togoi Hamidi emphasized in conclusion, "not a single line has been banned."

Bombing Continues 26 Dec

AB261723 Paris AFP in English 1715 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Ndjamena, Dec 26 (AFP) — Libyan forces continued bombing pro-government positions in northern Chad Friday [26 December] after two Libyan offensives were fought back earlier this week, official Chadian sources said here.

They said that following the defeat of a Libyan drive against the town of Zouar in Chad's Tibesti region, Libyan planes based in the Aouzou Strip in northern Chad were carrying out air raids in the region. [passage omitted]

500 Libyan Dead Reported

AB261826 Paris AFP in French 1759 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Kinshasa, 26 Dec (AFP) — The preliminary death toll from fighting between Chadian forces and Libyan troops in the Tibesti mountains as of last Wednesday's [24 December] attack is estimated at 500 dead on the Libyan side including six officers, it was learned from a Chadian diplomatic source in Kinshasa today.

According to the source, material losses included 3 planes and the destruction or immobilization of about 20 vehicles and several tanks.

The source, which confirmed the two attacks launched on Zouar

and Yebi Bou, added that the Chadian forces have not lost hope and are putting up a strong resistance in the field. The source did not give the figures for losses on the Chadian side.

Oumar Tours Tibesti Area

LD262057 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Transitional Government of National Unity [GUNT] President Comrade Acheikh Ibn Oumar has just completed an inspection tour of the Tibesti-Borkou-Ennedi sector. Accompanied by a large delegation, the GUNT president was intent on explainingto thepopulation and its traditional notables at each stage of his trip the latest developments in the political-military situation in Chad. [passage omitted]

Comrade Dr Facho Ballam, answering questions in Tripoli by the Libyan press agency JANA, said that due to the French military intervention north of the 16th parallel, the GUNT is asking the Libyan Arab People's Socialist Jamahiriyah to implement the defense agreement signed with it. Dr Facho Ballam has also called for support to GUNT from the progressive states in the face of the imperialist aggression.

Reinforcements Reach Tibesti

AB271220 Paris AFP in English 1100 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Paris, Dec 27 (AFP) — Chadian government troops sent to reinforce supporters of former rebel leader Goukouni Oueddei have arrived in the Tibesti region of northern Chad, scene of fighting this week between Libyan forces and Mr Goukouni's men, Chadian sources in Paris said on Saturday.

They said the column, which crossed the 16th parallel a few days ago, had reached Enneri Miski, close to Yebi Bou, in the east of the Tibesti mountain region. They added that the situation was very difficult for the "patriotic forces" (Mr Goukouni's men), who faced huge logistical problems with regard to weapons, ammunition and food. They had not received any fresh supplies since a French parachute drop of material on the night of December 16 to 17, the sources said.

Chadian sources said they regretted that no "friendly country, particularly France and the United States" had coordinated aid sufficient to match the forces being deployed on the ground by Libya.
Mr Goukouni, a former Chadian president, split with his former Libyan allies in October and is under house arrest in Tripoli. His men have gone over to the government side of President Hissein Habre.

Habre Receives French Adviser

AB271430 Paris AFP in French 1834 GMT 26 D 36

["This dispatch has been cleared by the Chadian authorities" — AFP subslug]

[Text] Ndjamena, 26 Dec (AFP) — Hissein Habre, the president of the Republic, granted audience Friday to Jean-Christophe Mitterrand, President Francois Mitterrand's adviser on African affairs. This audience, which lasted more than 1 hour, was an occasion for Mitterrand to deliver a written message from the French head of state to Habre. The content of the message was not disclosed.

"Our discussions were straightforward and to the point, but pleasant, too," Mitterrand told AFP at the end of his audience. Mitterand also disclosed that he discussed with Habre the outcome of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa (UDEAC) heads of state summit which was held in Bata, Equatorial Guinea. Chad will host the next summit in December 1987.

Mitterrand is expected to leave Ndjamena Friday evening for Yaounde. He will meet Saturday with President Paul Biya.

He will leave Sunday for Gabon to attend the inaugural ceremony of the Trans-Gabon Railroad connecting Libreville and Franceville.

Faya Forces Hail 'Victory'

LD272228 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2145 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] The revolutionary force and the masses of Faya municipality have stressed in a message sent to the brother leader of the revolution their firm determination to carry on the fight against the French and U.S. colonialists and their lackeys, the treacherous agents, until freedom is achieved for the Chadian people and Chad becomes Islamic, Arabic, and free to actively contribute toward the achievement of greater unity. In their message, the revolutionary force and the masses in Faya municipality hail the splendid victory won by the new legitimate government of national unity in Chad over the remnants of mutineer Habre, which are directly backed by the colonialist French and U.S. forces.

Commentary Raps OAU, UN

AB291058 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Just like the rest of the international community, Chadians would like to spend the end of 1986 in peace, tranquillity, and brotherhood inside their internationally acknowledged border. Unfortunately, no country chooses its neighbors and Al-Qadhdhafi's Libya has decided that Chadians will not enjoy tranquillity this month of December which people all over the world consider the month for reviewing the achievements of the past year in order to plan for the upcoming year.

As a matter of fact, after massacring the innocent population of the Ennedi region, especially at Fada, Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi is now attacking the Tibesti region, using impressive weapons. For more than 15 days, Libyan armored vehicles, aircraft, and troops have been relentlessly attacking towns in the Tibesti region. Without the fierce and determined resistance put up by the patriotic forces, the Libyan troops would have succeeded in

annihilating the population of the various towns in the Tibesti region, namely in Bardai, Wour, Zoumri, and Yebi Bou, just to name a few. After every Libyan offensive and despite the powerful means being used, the patriotic forces have been using the inappropriate equipment at their disposal to put up the appropriate resistance, prompted as they are by an unflagging determination to do away once and for all with the Libyan invaders.

Everyone knows the losses inflicted on the Libyans after each of their offensives: jet fighters have been shot down, armored vehicles destroyed, and an impressive quantity of equipment seized.

Since these new developments started with Libya's aggression and Al-Qadhdhafi's stated determination to crush the Chadian population in the Tibesti region as he did in the Ennedi region, the international community has chosen to remain silent. This silence can be interpreted as an indication of complicity.

First of all, the OAU: It has issued no condemnation of the inhuman acts of Al-Qadhdhafi's troops in Chad, even though our country is a full-fledged founding member of the pan-African organization, which has an ad hoc committee entrusted with the Libyan-Chadian conflict. What is the committee doing? Why is it not reacting as it should to the situation? It is difficult to get any answers to these questions.

In the second place, the United Nations: it has received the Chadian Government's complaint about Libyan atrocities in the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti [BET], but has only issued verbal protests without any concrete decision as rightfully expected by Chad. Then there are our friendly countries, the list of which is long. To our great (?confusion) the list has shrunk.

Only two African leaders have reacted in a responsible manner. First of all, Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. According to him, the Chadian Government and the patriotic forces now confronted with savage Libyan attacks must be assisted in their struggle to drive Al-Qadhdhafi and his troops out of Chad. To this end, Diouf has called for appropriate assistance to be given to President Hissein Habre to help him get rid of the aggressors.

A similar courageous attitude is that of Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, who has strongly denounced Libyan ongoing atrocities in the Tibesti region and appealed to the international community and all those who can help our country to do so in order to enable it to (?secure) the withdrawal of the Libyan troops from Chad.

In view of the serious situation arising from Al-Qadhdhafi's will to pursue his policy of annexation in Chad, one is surprised at some observations which can be rightly called indecent, as they clash markedly with the real situation in the field. As a matter of fact, what Chadian could uphold the concept of the 16th parallel which the media organizations talk so much of now as an imaginary dividing line between the BET and the rest of Chad, according to the authors of such observations?

On several occasions, the president of the Republic has denounced such insidious maneuvers in the press, and sometimes by the very people who count themselves as Chad's friends. These maneuvers, it must be said, are designed to instill in the minds of people the world over wrong ideas about Chad, namely that Chad is divided into two parts. This is the principal reason for our friends' (?hesitation) as whether to provide assistance to the Chadian National Armed Forces in their efforts to drive the bellicose Libyan troops out of Chad once and for all. This is why one will understand the anger of Chad's leaders, especially Moumine Togoi, secretary of state in the Presidency of the Republic in charge of information and orientation, who has reacted strongly to the costly diversionary campaign sponsored by the propagandists of the Libyan People's Bureau.

If the war (?does not) end in 1986, this is not to be blamed on Chad but on Al-Qadhdhafi's obstinate will to annex our country, which stimulates Chadians to defend themselves. We very much hope 1987 will be a year for the total liberation of Chad.

Libyans Take Zouar Oasis

AU291126 Paris AFP in English 1126 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Paris, Dec 29 (AFP) — Libyan forces have overrun the Zouar oasis in northwestern Chad's mountainous Tibesti region, reliable sources said here on Monday.

The sources said the Libyans had taken the oasis from pro-government Chadian forces during Sunday night. The pro-government forces had withdrawn from the oasis to the tops of surrounding hills, they added.

Zouar is on a key desert route which leads from the Libyan border in the north to the strategic palm-grove of Faya Largeau in the centre of northern Chad.

Control of the oasis was one of the Libyans' main battle aims. They had attacked it on December 19 and again on December 22.

CAMEROON

French Envoy Says Position on Chad Unchanged

AB271514 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] The head of state, President Paul Biya, this morning received in audience Mr Jean-Christophe Mitterrand, special adviser to the French president on African affairs. Talking to Radio Cameroon on the present situation in Chad, Mr Jean-Christophe Mitterrand said France maintains fully its position and nothing more. Mr Jean-Christophe Mitterrand came to Cameroon from Ndjamena, Chad, where he had talks with Chadian President Hissein Habre. He is expected to visit Gabon on Tuesday.

BURKINA FASO

Sankara Says ICJ Verdict Ends Border Dispute

AB241548 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Statement by President Thomas Sankara on the verdict delivered on 22 December by the International Court of Justice at the Hague on the Mali-Burkina border dispute — live or recorded]

[Text] You will recall that in September 1983, barely a few weeks after the creation of the National Council of the Revolution, our first visit abroad was a friendly visit to the brotherly people of Mali. You will also recall that this visit made it possible to sign an agreement on the decision by Mali and Burkina Faso to refer their border dispute to the International Court of Justice at the Hague.

It will be recalled that this dispute had been jeopardizing relations between the two states since they became independent. It had even led to a war in 1974. Barely a year ago the two armies confronted each other again while the case was still in court.

On 22 December 1986, the verdict of this august body was given. It recognizes the sovereignty of our country over the Beli region which is still called the Agacher Strip, and Mali has been granted the village of Dioulouma and several farming hamlets. We thank the United Nations whose court is at the service of the people. We thank the Organization of African Unity which accompanied us on this march to peace. We thank all states that mobilized in favor of peace between Mali and Burkina Faso. We also thank all those in the world who were saddened by the fact that our two peoples were at war and are now rejoicing at the fact that peace has been restored today.

At this historic moment for our country and for Mali, one cannot forget all those whose blood and sweat were shed, whereas dialogue could have enabled us to avoid paying such a final tribute to them. At least dialogue would have made it possible for us to engage in other battles to reward the precious sacrifices of our citizens. We must also think of those living on the battlefront from the southern most tip of our common border with Mali to the northermost tip of this same border. These Malian and Burkinabe inhabitants in spite of proclamations made in their capitals, are livestock rearers and farmers, brothers and sisters, cousins. They remained powerless during the 1974 and 1985 wars. They were traumatized by the gunfire and by the splitting up of their families. How can one forget the indifference, the seeds of enmity that were harmfully and uselessly sown between the Malians and the Burkinabe.

Fellow Burkinabes, the Court has delivered its verdict. What should our attitude be. First it is our duty to keep our word. As we addressed ourselves to that court, it is our duty to respect its decision. We are Burkinabes. Let us prove this. Let us prove that we are honorable people.

Secondly we are revolutionaries. This merely means that we are preoccupied by the happiness of the masses. Our sovereignty does not exclude the interests of other people. We declare in particular that our pastoral lands on the Agacher Strip, which has been internationally recognized as Burkinabe territory, are at the disposal of the people of Mali and Burkino Faso. Malian farmers and livestock rearers are at home there and must continue to feel at home there as we await the confirmation of the presence of minerals there for the prosperity of our two peoples.

Our satisfaction is great. It is great because the court order has put an end, as far as we are concerned, to any dispute between Mali and Burkina Faso. Poorly demarcated borders will no longer lead to conflicts which have jeopardized our projects for the provision of roads, boreholes, clinics, schools, houses, in short for the people's happiness.

Now that the page has been turned, let us engage in frank cooperation because all obstacles have been removed. Let us develop our brotherhood. Long live the Malian people! Long live the Burkinabe people! Fatherland or death we will win!

TOGO

President Receives Congolese Foreign Minister

AB241701 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Excerpt] General Gnassingbe Eyadema, RPT founding chairman and president of the Republic of Togo, this morning at the presidential palace in Lome received Mr Ndinga-Oba, member of the PCT Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation of the People's Republic of Congo. Mr Ndinga-Oba was the bearer of a written message from Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso who is also the current OAU chairman, to his brother and friend, Gen Eyadema. After the audience, the Congolese minister of foreign affairs and cooperation said that his visit concerns the excellent relations existing between the two heads of state, Denis Sassou-Nguesso and Gen Eyadema, and between the Congolese and Togolese peoples. Mr Ndinga-Oba, who inspected the weapons seized from the terrorist commando group on 23 September 1986, said that he was surprised and troubled to see so much resources wasted on aggression. [passage omitted]

MAURITIUS

India To Build Satellite Tracking Station

MB271528 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] India has announced that it will build a satellite tracking station on Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. Under an agreement signed in Port Louis, the Mauritian capital, India will also train Mauritian technicians to work at the station.

MOZAMBIQUE

Defense Ministry Announces Military Registration

MB261008 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Communique issued by the Defense Ministry in Maputo on 20 December]

[Text] A total of 22 years have passed since the time the glorious Chai guerrillas took up arms and launched the struggle for the liberation of the fatherland occupied by Portuguese colonialists. On 25 June, 1975, Frelimo solemnly proclaimed Mozambique's total and complete independence and the country's transformation into a people's republic in recognition of the heroic, courageous, and victorious struggle of the Mozambican people.

However, imperialism believed this independence had to be opposed and defeated because the establishment that realized the most just aspirations of the working masses was a bad example for southern Africa. It is in this context that the then southern Rhodesia minority regime waged a war against us. Nonetheless, the unity of the Mozambican people led to the defeat of Ian Smith and the establishment of a majority government there.

Today, South Africa trains, arms, supplies, and directs terrorists made up by the most reactionary group of Portuguese and Mozambican citizens who saw their privileges jeopardized after independence. Thus, countries neighboring Mozambique are being used to infiltrate armed bandits into our coutnry. These bandits seek to terrorize our people and present themselves as an opposition group. In this context, under decree 4/78 of 23 March, the National Defense Ministry announces:

1. Military registration campaign for 1987 will take place throughout the national territory from 2 January to 2 March.
2. This process covers Mozambican young people of both sexes born in 1970.
3. For the purpose of military registration, those covered must carry with them:
   a) identity card
   b) declaration of residence issued by the political structure
   c) qualification certificate
   d) six photographs
4. The provincial recruiting centres will soon announce the military registration centers.

The struggle continues!

[Dated] Maputo, 20 December 1986

USSR Women's Delegation Arrives for Visit

MB241317 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] A delegation from the Committee of Soviet Women arrived in Maputo this morning for a friendly visit at the invitation of the Mozambican Women's Organization. During its stay in our country, the Soviet women's delegation will visit places of historical and socioeconomic interest, as well as exchange experiences between the two women's organizations. (Dania Salykovana), head of the delegation and secretary of the Supreme Soviet Presidium of the Tatar Autonomous SSR, said at the airport that the USSR was in favor of peace and goodneighborliness in southern Africa.

Holds Talks

MB261158 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Women from Mozambique and the Soviet Union are holding talks in Maputo on ways to improve friendship and cooperation. A delegation of the Soviet Women's Committee, which arrived in the Mozambican capital on Wednesday, has already laid a wreath at the Heroes' Square for the late Mozambican leader, Samora Machel. The Soviet delegation is headed by the secretary of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Socialist Republic of Tatarskaya, while secretary general of the Mozambique Women's Organisation, the OMM, Salome Moiane, heads the Mozambican side. The two delegations are discussing cooperation between women's organizations of the Soviet Union and Mozambique. The talks coincide with the start of a week friendship between the two countries involving cultural exchanges. A Soviet dance group is in Maputo for a number of performances. The week of friendship is scheduled to end next Tuesday.

SOUTH AFRICA

Marion Island Landing Strip Under Study

MB291103 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1053 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria Dec 29 SAPA — After initially denying knowledge of a project to build an airstrip on Marion Island, the minister of environment affairs and fisheries, Mr John Wiley, confirmed today an "ecological evaluation" of the effect on the environment such construction work would have was under way. He emphasised in a statement in Pretoria, in response to media reports, that the findings of the working group "will be decisive in the decision-making process as to whether a landing facility will be provided or not."

The *Observer* newspaper in London yesterday carried a report saying South Africa had decided to build an airstrip on the

Antarctic island under a plan possibly designed to prepare the site for testing nuclear missiles. The proposed four million sterling (about R12 million) runway would be capable of handling C-130 Hercules transport planes and was likely to provoke international controversy among both anti-apartheid campaigners and environmentalists.

In his statement, Mr Wiley did not refer to the nuclear allegations but gave reasons why the idea of a landing strip on the island had been "bandied about for some time." The minister said he considered it necessary to clarify the situation and place matters in perspective "as a result of confusing reports which have appeared in the media."

Responsibility for Marion Island and related functions had been transferred to his department in October 1985.

"An aspect which received early attention of the new managment was the high costs involved in servicing the island in emergency situations. During the past four years it was necessary to mount four emergency voyages," he said. South Africa maintains a 24-man scientific station on the island, which is situation 2000km south east of Cape Town.

Mr Wiley said the department was also responsible for the control of fishing in South African waters, and that the fishing zone around the island, (South African territory since 1947) presently received very little attention. "Control in the zone must of necessity be upgraded to a considerable extent. It is also clear that much more information is required about the fishing potential of that region."

It seemed likely that people would in future pay more regular visits to the island and that the need for better and more reliable contact would be of growing importance. "Furthermore search and rescue operations necessitate that a thorough study be made of the possibility of providing a usable landing facility in the area," he said.

"For some time now the idea of providing a landing strip of some sort on the island has been bandied about, particularly with a view to facilitating the movement of personnel. Because I am aware of the sensitivity of the environment of Marion Island, I approved, as a first step, that a thorough ecological evaluation for the construction of a landing strip on Marion Island be undertaken." Mr Wiley said he had consequently decided an environmental impact evlaution should be done "completely independent of the department."

"To this end a working group of recognised scientists from various disciplines has been established, one of whom is from abroad." The group was under the leadership of Dr G. Heymann, vice-president of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and chairman of the South Afrian Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research.

"I wish to emphasise that the findings of the working group will be decisive in the decision-making process as to whether a landing facility will be provided or not on Marion Island," Mr Wiley said.

Regulations Issued To Counter School Unrest
MB290857 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0852 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria Dec 29 SAPA — Wide-ranging new state of emergency regulations aimed specifically at countering unrest at black schools and colleges were published in a special government gazette in Pretoria today.

The proclamation by the state president, in terms of the Public Safety Act, enables the director general of education and training to issue, without prior notice, orders to strictly regulate the presence and conduct of pupils or other people on institutions premises.

Those contravening the orders face a maximum fine of R4000 or two years imprisonment, or imprisonment without the option of a fine, if convicted.

The director general may issue the orders "for the purpose of the safety of the public, the maintenance of public order or the termination of the state of emergency," and do so "without prior notice to any person and without hearing any person."

The orders will have to be published in the gazette, on radio or television and in either a nationally circulating newspaper or one with a circulation in an area particularly refrred to.

If the order applies to a particular person only, it has to be delivered to that person in written form. However, if the order is urgent and in the opinion of the director general cannot be delivered by any of these means in time, the order may be made known orally to those concerned.

The orders the director general may make are firstly a prohibition, or strict control and regulation, of the presence of a pupil, or any other person, on any school or hostel premises, and the use of school property, facilities or equipment.

He may prohibit any "syllabus, work programme, class or course" which has not been approved in terms of the Education Act, and prohibit a person "who is not officially concerned in the activities of a school from interfering with any such activities."

A person may be "prohibited from obstructing or disrupting any activity of a school."

The director-general may also prohibit "the wearing, possession or displaying on any school or hostel premises of a uniform, part of a uniform, t-shirt or other article of clothing, case, flag banner, pennant or poster or any article on which a slogan," specified in his order appears, or on which "the badge, emblem, name or flag of any organisation" specified in the order appears.

He may prohibit the distribution of "any notice, letter, book, pamphlet, poster, paper or any other writing dealing with, or containing any material" on a subject specified in his order.

The director-general may regulate or control "the movement or activities of pupils on any school or hostel premises."

Any or all of these orders would, as indicated in the order itself, apply generally to everybody, or a person specified "or to all persons belonging to a category of persons so specified."

The order or orders will also specify which school, schools or general area will be affected.

The orders will remain in force for periods which may be specified, or until they are withdrawn.

Besides the possibility of the fine or prison sentence on conviction for contravening such orders, the courts will also be able to declare "any goods, property or instrument" involved in the offence to be forfeit to the state.

Two Arrested in Connection With Espionage Case
MB281550 Umtata Capital Radio in English 10000 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Two more people are reported to have been detained in the Defense Force spy saga. The investigation was sparked by the detention of a senior SADF officer based at a unit in Voortrekkerhoogte. The police have refused to give the officer's name or rank. The *Sunday Star* newspaper says the two detained in connection with the spy are not connected to the Defense Force. They are both being held in terms of Section 29 of the Internal Security Act. The paper says the SADF officer will face charges of espionage which could be linked to the activities of the ANC.

Security Forces Kill 3 'Terrorists' in Transvaal
MB261655 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1653 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 26, SAPA — Defence Headquarters announced in Pretoria today that the security forces killed three ANC terrorists in the Weipe area of the northern Transvaal this afternoon. A group of terrorists crossed the Limpopo River between South Africa and Zimbabwe on Wednesday, December 24, a Defence Headquarters spokesman said. Early yesterday morning, a local farmer and one of his employees who were out hunting, discovered the group sleeping under a tree. "The farmer identified them as terrorists and fired a number of rounds. The terrorists fled. As part of the area protection system, the farmer contacted the security forces and a follow-up operation was immediately launched," the spokesman said. "This afternoon, the security forces made contact with the group, killing three of them. A quantity of mines, anti-personnel mines, and plastic explosive of Eastern Bloc origin, was captured. "It is obvious that this group intended to lay mines in the area as was the case last year. Follow-up operations are continuing," the spokesman said.

Prisoner Shoots Guards, Escapes
MB271258 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1255 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria Dec 27 SAPA — Two policemen were shot dead by an alleged terrorist in the northern Transvaal yesterday, the SAP Directorate of Public Relations in Pretoria said today.

At 9pm last night W/O [Warrant Officer] T.J. Gerber, 44, and Sergeant J.M. Nel, 43, were transporting the captured man to Messina from the scene of a shootout between alleged terrorists and security force members, a spokesman said. "Three terrorists were killed and one captured. They were on their way to Messina when the terrorist managed to free himself, grab a loaded firearm and shoot the two members," he said. "Security force follow-up operations to trace the terrorist who shot the members are continuing. He is the last of a group of five. As announced by the SADF the other four have been killed in confrontation with security forces."

Both men, from Beitbridge, are survived by a wife and three children, the spokesman said.

Police Claim Detainee Died of Epilepsy
MB241908 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1904 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria Dec 24 SAPA — A 20-year-old detainee died in the Boksburg-Benoni Hospital yesterday after becoming ill in the Modderbee Prison near Springs, police confirmed in Pretoria today. A police spokesman said in a statement that Mr Simon Marule became ill on Monday evening and was immediately transferred to the Boksburg-Benoni Hospital. "His illness was initially diagnosed by a hospital doctor as epilepsy and he died the following morning in the hospital."

The police spokesman said a post mortem would be held to determine the precise cause of death. His next-of-kin had been informed immediately, the SAP said.

The spokesman could not say how long Mr Marule had been detained or whether he had been held in terms of the emergency regulations.

Mr Marule's lawyer said earlier he had been held without charge since July under the state of emergency.

Seven Hurt in Racial Violence at Natal Beaches
MB270655 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Racial violence on Natal's beaches has left at least seven people injured. Widespread violence between whites and blacks at Amanzimtoti left six injured after fighting broke out. Police say bottles, knives, and rocks were used in the clashes.

Cars were reported to have been stoned and one person seriously injured in fighting on Durban's North Beach. At least six cars were damaged in fighting and stone throwing near Blue Lagoon and Battery Beach.

Information Bureau Issues Daily Unrest Reports

24 December

MB260816 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0815 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 26, SAPA — The Bureau for Informations' unrest situation report for the period 0000 on 24 Dec to 0000 on 25 Dec follows:

"In two seperate incidents radicals and moderate black people clashed. In Chesterville (Durban) a 16-year-old girl was wounded with a firearm by radical elements and in Sakhile (Standerton) two black men over the age of 18 were killed and three injured.

"Other unrest related incidents that were reported consisted of stone throwing and petrol bomb attacks on privates homes and vehicles."

Ends report

25 December

MB251051 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1049 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 25, SAPA — (Here follows the department [as received] of information's unrest report for the period 6pm last night to 6am today)

In Pimeville, Soweto, a group of about 20 black people threw petrol over a black woman. Her name is Gogina Makhanya of house 5222. They tried to set her alight with the necklace method. She received minor burn wounds. No arrests were made.

In Nzanany, Bethal, a group of unknown black people stoned a vehicle of the security forces. The security forces retaliated with shot-gun and pistol fire. Three black men were killed. A 20-year-old black man, Mr Vusi Kgwenwa, of 158 Nkondo St, Mzanani, was killed. The other two people are unkonwn. This incident occurred at 1st avenue in Mzanani. A member of the security forces was injured. One black man was arrested.

In KwaZakele in Port Elizabeth an unknown black man was murdered by the necklace method by an unknown group of black people. No arrests were made.

26 December

MB270829 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0827 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria Dec 27 SAPA — (Herewith follows the Bureau of Information's report for the period 00h01 to 24h00, Dec 26)

Only a few isolated incidents of stone throwing in four SAP districts were reported during the above period. One black man over 18 was slightly wounded and two men arrested during these incidents. Minimal damage was caused.

27 December

MB280858 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0850 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria Dec 28 SAPA — Herewith Bureau for Information's unrest report for the period 0001 to 2400, Dec 27:

"Incidents of stone throwing at private vehicles were reported from only two SAP districts — Claremont (Durban) and Soweto. Two black men were arrested in connection with the incident in Soweto."

28 December

MB290949 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0940 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria Dec 29 SAPA — Following is the Bureau for Information's daily unrest report:

"Unrest report 00H01 to 24h00 (28 December).

"A black man fired at two members of the security forces in Dobsonville (Soweto) yesterday, wounding one in the shoulder. No arrests were made.

"A group of black persons set fire to a private home in Sebokeng (Vereeniging) yesterday. One black man was seriously injured in the incident. No arrests were made.

"Black radicals threw a handgrenade on the roof of the private home of a councillor in Vosloorus (Boksburg) yesterday morning. The councillor's 13-year-old girl was injured by shrapnel. No other injuries were reported. Police investigation continues.

"Other reported unrest-related invidents comprised isolated stone-throwings and petrol bomb attacks."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

25 December Press Review

[Editorial report]

THE CITIZEN: Congressmen Like 'Vultures'

Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 24 December in a page 6 editorial agrees with the government's decision to refuse entry to two groups of U.S. congressmen planning a fact-finding mission in South Africa next year. "No doubt the liberal newspapers will claim that South Africa has nothing to hide, that the American Congressmen might be persuaded by what they find here to have second thoughts about sanctions..." "We reject this view. The U.S. Congress imposed tough sanctions despite some of its members haivng visited South Africa and despite pleas from South Africa...that the U.S. should not impose sanctions. The Congressmen should not be allowed here to pick at their prey like greedy vultures."

THE STAR: No Truce in RSA

"It is South Africa's tragedy that there is to be no truce to fraternise in no man's land, to weigh up the 'enemy' and to be able to concede that there is inherent good in all of us," says Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 24 December in a page 8 editorial. Some hopeful signs exist, however, like "the reservoir of goodwill that still exists between races, mocking the politicians and radicals who would drain it." "Surely it should be possible to build on that."

CAPE TIMES: Gordimer on People's Education

Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 23 December, in a page 8 article, publishes "extracts" from South African author Nadine Gordimer's graduation address at the University of Cape Town, in which she reviews the ramifications of "people's education." Educational institutions "are power structures like any other supporting columns in the edifice of racist South African society. Universities in South Africa are in no way morally freestanding." "I believe yours is the first generation to have recognized that it is not only the racist segregation laws that need to be got rid of in order to open meaningful education for all in South Africa. It is the concept of what education is and for whose needs it is designed that has to be rethought." "Many people are afraid of the term 'people's education,' which is beginning to take the place of 'one education for all' as the necessity on the horizon in a new South Africa. For them people's education has an ominous ring of indoctrination." People's education "means getting rid of the conditioning that Africa and Africans, in fact, had no existence until whites looked on them." "Broadly, it means restructuring education at all levels and in all fields through a new attitude to the needs of the majority of the people...." "I hope that people's education is not going to be regarded by whites as something only blacks need." "Whites have been taught to ignore, have been totally excluded from black culture, in their education. The result of this stupid arrogance has been the loss of...the culture of the people *who were here*. A real South African culture will not come into being until European culture fuses with that."

DIE TRANSVALER: Futile U.S. Policy

Pretoria *Die Transvaler* in Afrikaans on 23 December says in a page 18 editorial that just as the cooling off in relations between South Africa and the United States has increased as a result of sanctions and disinvestment, so too the U.S. policy of constructive engagement impresses nobody anymore, not even the State Department. "It has become a futile philosophy of words transcending hard realities because the United States likes to listen to its own voice." Such a situation could leave people with good intentions in South Africa cold. Now George Shultz wants to talk to the ANC. Why? To convince them to stop their violence. It is doubtful. ANC activity will increase. Concluding, it says "this is another example of the United States stumbling over its clumsy feet."

DIE VADERLAND: Agreeing With Bureau

Johannebsurg *Die Vaderland* in Afrikaans on 23 December says in page 14 editorial: "Although we have misgivings about the new emergency regulation restrictions on the media, we agree with certain aspects of the Bureau for Information's adverisement," explaining new media restrictions. That is, according to the Bureau, that the emergency regulations have not succeeded in eliminating political agitation and subversive propaganda. It is not the Bureau's function to neutralize the revolutionary climate. "May we be spared that thought." It is the task of white and black leaders, political and otherwise, to solve the problems that have led to the unrest situation.

27 December Press Review

[Editorial report]

THE STAR Disagrees with Botha on U.S. Visit

Reacting to the "emotive appeal" by Foreign Minister Pik Botha as he rejected a proposed visit by two U.S. congressional groups, an editorial on page 6 of Johannesburg *The Star* in English for 26 December argues in favor of the visits. "By all means let Mr Botha score his points about rubbing salt in wounds and the ban on SAA [South African Airways]. But after diplomatic points have been made and taken, the congressmen should be allowed to see things for themselves." The editorial notes that *The Star* "has always believed that facts should be disclosed, that people should be informed, that the best decisions are taken with the benefit of the most knowledge. Allowing the congressmen to visit will allow them to discover the kind of harm that sanctions are causing, and to whom. It is unlikely that this will cause them to reevaluate their original misguided strategy; but it can't be more harmful than not letting them see at all."

Restrictions 'Retreat From the Real World'

Rob Nuttall, in his "Politics" column on page 6 of Johannesburg *The Star* in English for 27 December, calls the latest press restrictions "an almost total retreat from the real world." Nuttall warns that the lack of "street demonstrations by an angry and insulted public outraged that their most basic rights are being tampered with," for whatever reason, "bodes ill for South Africa." The bottom line is that "in fighting against the political aspirations of a majority of its own people, South Africa is making enemies of most of the rest of the world. Instead of being able to concentrate on internal solutions, we find ourselves fending off thrusts by the leaders of the Western world, not to mention the East and the Nonaligned countries." In looking toward 1987, Nuttall concludes that what is not needed from the government is "pouting-lipped aggression, threats and victimisation of people with an earnest desire to bring about peace in this country."

29 December Press Review

[Editorial report]

SUNDAY TIMES on Prospects for Reform

In a column on page 14 of Johannesburg *Sunday Times* in English for 28 December, Brian Pottinger writes about the "lull" in the reform movement. "The reform flow was sabotaged by a number of things: governmental incompetence, security force over-reaction, the blind intransigence of radical groups, international pressure, recession, and plain inertia." "The more the political programme falters, the more it becomes necessary for the Government to invoke extraordinary powers." Temporarily, the "wholesale denial of information to the public and curtailment of civil liberties may work to establish a sort of ragged peace

— the eye of the storm. But only political leadership and initiative can deflect the rest of the storm." Pottinger argues that black politics is also stalled, because "black activists in South Africa have for too long been locked into the use of the veto" — What Pottinger calls the "no factor." Black resistance is impotent because "it is fractured generally, ideologically incoherent and, in many ways, reluctant to surrender the seductive charm of sloganeering in favor of carefully considered alternatives and practical programmes to achieve those alternatives." The way out of this impasse involves a change of leadership of the National Party and the emergence of the "radical center" dedicated to traditional western values, "now so lacking in our national politics: freedom of speech, association and criticism," based on "a healthy and unmanipulated flow of information."

National Party 'Paralysis'

"To me, the most important event...of 1986 appears to be the paralysis of the Government and the National Party," says Alan Paton in an article on the same page. He attributes this at least in part to the NP's fear of the Afrikaner right, which has slowed down the pace of reform. Another reason for this paralysis is that "the Afrikaaner Nationalist does not easily adopt the role of reformer." Rather, he is used to ruling and finds "that it is harder to reform than it is to rule." However, Paton declares: "I, along with many South Africans, do not believe that sanctions will have the effect that their supporters hoped for," but "will further delay the policy of reform." "The idea that the wrecking of the economy will bring about a more just society and an era of peace is to us quite preposterous. Most of us are admirers of the United States, but we regard this action as an instance of extreme self-righteousness." Paton offers the Natal-KwaZulu Indaba as a better road to reform. "The Indaba is proof that the hatred and the alienation that so characterized the year 1986 are not universal." The Indaba's proposed self-governing region "would set an example of toleration and economic progress that would encourage other regions to follow its example."

Open Letter to Ambassador Perkins

In an open letter to U.S. Ambassador to South Africa Edward Perkins on the same page, Harald Pakendorf examines reaction to Pik Botha's hardline attitude regarding U.S. policy toward the RSA: "We feel a little bitter because we had been such good boys over the past few years that we had thought this year we would get a present. Instead we were fooled. Inside of constructive engagement was wrapped the involved American political process coupled with your moral outrage which comes and goes a little like Christmas — it comes regularly only to fade over time." "Mr Pik Botha can look fierce and intense, but he frequently adopts this mannerism to portray the feelings he, mostly correctly, thinks South Africans share with him." "We accepted that when Ronald Reagan and Chet Crocker were understanding the difficult reformation taking place here, that meant America felt like that." "That is why we became bitter when Congress again decided other than the executive branch." "But I need to add, and privately I am sure you will agree, that it is a bit steep to expect us to act normally towards you when act abnormally towards us." "Make no mistake, South Africa backs Pik Botha on this one. The problem, though,... is that there are really no South Africans in this country. We are all on our own, divided by our fears, hopes and aspirations, coupled with our language and other differences." "However, I understand a little of the ebb and flow of your political mood and know that once we have done what you are pushing us to do, your concern with the poor, the dispossessed and the less privileged will evaporate...you will turn your moral outrage elsewhere. We of course have to plough on, working towards a just society within which black aspirations are fully met without pushing aside white fears and rights. A difficult job — and your attitude is not really helping." And 1987 will be "a year in which I am certain isolation will grow, relations with your country will further deteriorate and high emotion rather than cool calculation will reign."

THE SUNDAY STAR: Press Essential to Freedom

Johannesburg *The Sunday Star* in English on 28 December carries a page 10 column by George Theiner, editor of "Index on Censorship," examining the role of the newly restricted press. "The drastic new restrictions have, for the time being, put paid to freedom of the Press in South Africa, whose newspapers will now find it difficult in the extreme to inform the public." "Even now, journalists will doubtless do their utmost to report truthfully whatever the law does not prevent them from reporting." "There is one aspect of Draconian censorship that the Pretoria Government would do well to consider. It has always seemed to me that unless there is a Stalinist-type police state to back it up — with no political opposition and no independent media to criticise the authorities — such censorship cannot be but inadequate and, to some extent, counter-productive." "There is not the slightest hope that the civil unrest and mass expressions of protest in South Africa will cease. No matter how stringent the Press regulations, the Government cannot prevent news about this from getting out. Worse than that, it is in just such situations that rumour thrives, frequently painting a picture blacker than it is in reality." "It is Pretoria which, in the long run, is likely to be the loser."

Qwelane on Desire for Freedom

"Why won't some white South Africans accept that it is inhuman policies like theirs which have catapulted this beautiful land into the abyss? In other words, why won't these white South Africans admit it is they — through their votes and support for the people they put in Power — who are responsible for the mess they threw us all in?" asks Jon Qwelane in his "Just Jon" column on the same page. "Let me sound a warning before it is too late: If those who have — at the expense of those whom they exploited down the years — do not want to share fairly with the rest of us what our country has for all of us, they risk losing everything they have when the moment of truth comes. You may have the big guns and the big battalions, you may even have the capability to make nuclear weapons — but even with all those, you will never be able to destroy our burning desire to be free." "If we cannot swim together, then we shall sink together."

Youth Forums Searching for Hope

An article by Gary van Staden on page 12 examines the role of youth in the South African situation. "Almost every weekend hundreds of young South Africans meet, often behind closed doors, to plan the 'revolution' they believe will one day change the face of their scarred land. But in this revolution the only weapon used is words and the only objective is to create a country where all can live in peace and with justice — an objective the young leaders of tomorrow believe their elders have no hope of realising." These forums are a manifestation of young people's

concern and are based on the belief that "it is possible to reach consensus." Problems encountered by such activists include funding and the anonymity preferred by those members who are black or identified with groups such as the United Democratic Front. "Black 'cell groups' are less active in their communities than their white counterparts. Because of their township activities they are also far more likely to be detained or arrested when they emerge to attend the forums." An Afrikaner student leader says: ""I am convinced that we are talking to the people who matter. The townships youths who attended our conference are heavily involved in activist organisations such as the UDF, they are boycotting schools and they hold pretty radical views.' 'There would be no point in talking to them if they didn't.'"

Sanctions No Game

In a page 13 interview with Fred Bell, "the man who has been given the top-secret task of freeing South Africans from their dependence on foreign technology," John MacLennan acknowledges that Bell "cannot speak about much of his work because knowlege of his efforts could harm the country." Bell remarks that sanctions are "'an economic war.' 'I don't doubt for moment we will be better off at the end of it.'" "But Mr Bell regards the sanctions campaign as a blessing in disguise because it is forcing the country to upgrade its technology." ""It will make us independent."" ""I do not foresee South Africans being deprived of anything."" ""We are not like the little Dutch Boy trying to plug his fingers into holes in the dyke. We can fix the whole thing.""

Shultz Taking Risk With ANC Talks

George Shultz "is running political risks with his decision to hold talks here next month" with ANC leader Oliver Tambo, reports Neil Lurssen from Washington on page 13 of *The Sunday Star*. In addition to "displeasure among American Right-wingers," "some analysts here believe the deep chill between the United States and South Africa is unlikely to thaw for some months — at least until after a general election in which President Botha will probably get a mandate from his electorate. With America's diplomatic efforts in Pretoria on ice for the moment, now appears to be the best time to seek influence with an organisation which, until fairly recently, was held at arm's length by the State Department." "But it appears certain that the meeting will add to the chill that already exists between Washington and Pretoria."

ZAMBIA

AP Correspondent Released From Detention

MB251333 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] It has been announced that the Harare-based *Associated Press* correspondent, John Edlin, who was being detained by police in Lusaka for flouting the immigration laws, has been released. Home Affairs Minister Cosmas Chibanda confirmed in Lusaka that the journalist, who once worked for the *Times of Zambia* before he was deported in 1969, was released yesterday. Comrade Chibanda said Edlin, who was detained after [words indistinct], has since returned to Zimbabwe. Edlin was picked up last week by the Ridgeway immigration officials for having entered the country illegally. Comrade Chibanda explained that Edlin was not deported, but merely sent back as he is already a deportee.

ZIMBABWE

Yugoslav Paper Interviews Prime Minister Mugabe

AU271857 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 28 Nov-1 Dec 86 p 7

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Robert Mugabe by Momcilo Stefanovic, *Politika* permanent correspondent, in Harare — date not given]

[Excerpts] Harare, November — Although preoccupied with many duties and obligations because he is the leader and prime minister of his country, Zimbabwe, which stands at the center of the tense events in southern Africa, as well as the president of the Nonaligned Movement (101 countries and 1.7 billion people, three quarters of mankind), Dr Robert Mugabe was "very pleased and had great satisfaction," as he particularly pointed out, in consenting to give an interview to *Politika* for its Republic Day issue, "the first interview I grant as the president of the Nonaligned Movement." [passage omitted]

"After the Harare summit, my first task, as well as the task of those who work with me, is to try and do everything, in the shortest possible time, to realize and implement the decisions contained in the political and economic declarations. [passage omitted] However, when we analyzed the decisions after the summit, we arrived at an definite decision: the Disarmament Declaration is the most essential one and it demands work, action without delay. This also was my first, most important task as the president of the movement. Therefore, I immediately went to the UN General Assembly session and presented the essence of the most important Harare summit decisions. At the same time, I did my best to ensure that the summit messages were handed to the leaders of the two largest powers, the USSR and the United States, Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan."

Having explained how these messages were handed over, saying that the message was handed to Gorbachev directly and quickly but that the message for Reagan was received as late as November by U.S. Vice President Bush, Mugabe said:

"We received an encouraging and good reply from Mikhail Gorbachev. He agreed with the Harare document and stressed that it should be borne in mind by all countries of the world. As we understood Gorbachev's message, he spoke about the Harare document to Ronald Reagan during their meeting in Reykjavik. We are pleased at this, because in essence there has thus been a reaction to this important nonaligned document and, I may say, to a certain extent a common view on it."

Asked how he regards the Reykjavik meeting in general, Mugabe said:

"Above all, we were glad that such a meeting was held. However, I must immediately add that we are not the happiest about the

results of this meeting or, rather, about it ending without result about the most important questions of international peace. Therefore, the nonaligned will do their best and will continue their pressure, if I may say so, so that the highest representatives of the two largest powers may meet again and try to harmonize their opposite views on many things." [passage omitted]

Having said this, Mugabe especially wanted to present in a pithy way a view that he mentioned at the Harare summit:

"I believe that what we jointly agreed upon at the summit will be quickly implemented. But personally I feel that we should examine how to advance the work of the movement, certain reforms, so that we may work more efficiently.... For instance, we have no secretariat. For this work I now use the Zimbabwean state apparatus. We shall consider the possibility of creating a mini secretariat which will make possible the implementation of the summit decisions.... You know, perhaps I, as president, will need some research, a unit that will watch over the development of current events and that will examine possible solutions for a quick reaction in an effort to resolve problems quickly." [passage omitted]

In concluding his interview, Dr Robert Mugabe also spoke about the relations between Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe:

"Zimbabwe and Yugoslavia are not new friends. Our friendship is of a special kind; it was forged in the common struggle and in the years of Zimbabwe's liberation struggle. I want to stress: Yugoslavia is one of the few countries that were always on the side of Zimbabwe, even when some of our friends in the African region abandoned the Zimbabwe National Union [ZANU] Party... Yugoslavia stood firmly by ZANU. [passage omitted]

"Also, after obtaining our independence, we tried to strengthen this friendship, by improving our cooperation in many fields, advancing economic cooperation and cooperation in the cultural field. Yugoslavia has participated in Zimbabwean development programs and projects. For instance, the Harare Conference Center, constructed by your Energoprojekt enterprise, is a magnificent monument to our friendship and solidarity." [passage omitted]

At the very end of his interview Mugabe spoke about the closest cooperation between Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe in the Nonaligned Movement:

"First of all I wish to express my gratitude for the contacts that I had with the Yugoslav delegation headed by the president of the SFRY Presidency during the eighth nonaligned summit in Harare. Those were great days for Zimbabwe! I want to say that the Nonaligned Movement and Yugoslavia are synonymous. We also cannot think of the Nonaligned Movement without thinking of Tito, as we must remember him when we speak about our friendship." [passage omitted]

FBIS

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Jordan Allows Palestinians To Depart for Lebanon

JN300725 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0650 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Dec (WAM) — Abu Dhabi press reports said today that the Jordanian authorities have responded to a request by the Palestinian leadership to allow some of the Palestinian troops stationed in Jordan to leave for Lebanon once they are needed to defend the Palestinian camps.

Citing informed Palestinian sources, *Al-Ittihad* said that some of these troops have actually left for Lebanon via Egypt or Iraq and that they most likely belong to the Fatah Movement's Al-Karamah camp forces. The paper added that Naim al-Khatib, commander of the Palestinian Badr forces in Jordan, refused to confirm or deny the departure of some of his troops for Lebanon.

The sources indicated that approximately 7,000 to 8,000 Palestinian fighters have arrived in Lebanon from the Arab countries since the beginning of recent battles.

FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH Views Syrian Sectarianism

JN261910 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Dec 86

[*Filastin Al-Thawrah* editorial: "The Era of the Palestinian Camps" — date not given]

[Text] The Arab battlefronts are closed to Palestinians and the Arab regimes have dropped the military option while Egypt is still shackled by the Camp David accords. Time is passing and the occupation is being entrenched, while the Arab regimes are divided, sectarian conflicts have forced their way into the Arab home, and in Syria a sectarian civil war has been raging for 10 years against a sectarian minority that usurped power in Syria in 1971 through the arch-sectarian, Hafiz al-Asad. The sectarian minority has toppled Syria's nationalist stand and policy and replaced them with a narrow sectarian stand and policy and with sectarian relations that revolve around a single central point: namely, to maintain the sect's power in the face of threats to it from the oppressed and Muslim majority. Of course, the absence of Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir as a national pan-Arab leader, the consequent shrinking of Egypt's pan-Arab role, and the subsequent serious apostasy by Al-Asad in making peace with the Zionist enemy at the expense of the masses of the Arab East, particularly the Palestinian people, have created favorable objective conditions for the intervention of Zionist and imperialist forces to split the unity of the masses of the Arab East because these forces lost the battle of colonialism and direct domination when the Arab masses wrested their national independence in the beginning of the 1950s and when 'Abd al-Nasir's nationalist revolution harnessed such independence to serve the Nasirite struggle to achieve Arab unity.

The mere struggle for Arab unity has been a terrifying nightmare for Zionism, which occupied Palestine; the imperialist and colonialist forces, which plunder the Arab homeland; and for the traditional Arab forces, which saw in 'Abd al-Nasir's call for unity a threat to their very existence and which opposed and fought against unity. These forces sought to strike at the mass struggle for unity, openly conspired to undermine the Syrian-Egyptian union, and strived to activate the sectarian forces which sensed that the call for unity threatened their special character. The imperialist forces sought to emphasize that special character and tried to turn it into a force hostile to Arab nationalism. 'Abd al-Nasir's sudden death and Al-Sadat's assumption of power in Egypt was a rare opportunity for all the forces hostile to Arab unity and nationalism to move to abort the Nasirite nationalist current, a truly Arab nationalist current, and to replace it with calls for regional and national isolation on the pretext that the call for Arab unity was inappropriate in the prevailing Arab circumstances.

One should note that the sectarian and anti-unionist forces, particularly in Syria, carried out their putsch in 1969 to control the Syrian Army. It is significant here to note that 'Abd al-Nasir had moved the pilot Hafiz al-Asad, together with a number of sectarian officers, to Egypt. There is no doubt that the banishment from Syria — and events later proved this — was the result of Al-Asad's role in building the sectarian military organization within the Syrian Armed Forces. Following the collapse of the union between Syria and Egypt, that military group returned to Syria to immediately begin to rebuild its secret sectarian organization and to seize power in subsequent years.

It may be very late now to ask the question — a question that worries many people who do not find a satisfying answer to it: What connection is there between the political development in the sectarian power in Syria and the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and Syria, and indeed with the Palestinian national role?

In his corrective coup in 1971, Al-Asad purged the ranks of the Army and Armed Forces of all opposition and rebuilt the Armed Forces on a sectarian basis without there being a need for a figure representing the majority so that he would become head of state. A few months after he appointed the doyen of teachers, Ahmad al-Khatib, as head of state, Al-Asad prayed in the Umayyad Mosque and succeeded in becoming president with a majority of 99.97 percent of the electors' votes.

With Al-Asad's presidency, the era of sectarian rule began in Syria. The most important characteristic of such a rule is the expulsion of [the representative of] the majority from the government and the army. The Air Force is the exclusive monopoly of the sect. All of the intelligence services are sectarian. All of the division commanders belong to that sect. Ninety percent of the cadets in military schools are members of the sect. The diplomatic corps is sectarian. Interstate foreign trade is sectarian, and consequently economic power is in the hands of that sect. These are the same characteristics which in Lebanon we call political Maronism, which has monopolized power, the army, and the economy in Lebanon since the proclamation of the Lebanese National Charter in 1943.

In Lebanon there is political Maronism and in Syria there is political 'Alawite Islam. There is no difference between the clash with political Maronism and the clash with political 'Alawite Islam, except that the reasons are more serious and more profound than the reasons that led to the clash between the Palestinian revolution and political Maronism in Lebanon. Political

Maronism clashed with 'Abd al-Nasir after the union between Syria and Egypt because it feared the Lebanese masses would act to merge Lebanon with the Syrian- Egyptian union. The question now is: Why does the Palestinian role and presence cause a clash between the Palestinians and the political 'Alawite Islam ruling Syria?

In contemporary life the Palestinians represent a national and pan-Arab aspiration to liberate Palestine. In general Arab entities stand in the way of such a national and pan-Arab aspiration because of their own regional calculations. When such Arab entities are in the grip of sectarian forces, the sectarians' fear of losing their power makes them ally themselves with the devil to stave off all threats to their power. It is well known that minorities in general call for the assistance of outside powers to protect their power and are willing to forge secret pacts and agreements with the national enemy to avoid the battle with him because they fear the results of such a battle. The first of such results is that the majority will move to regain power. The sectarians in power do not see the national enemy but are obsessed by the fear of its national [watani] and pan-Arab [qawmi] antithesis. The greatness of the Palestinian revolution is that it does, in word and deed, represent the antithesis of Zionism and the antithesis of sectarianism. The Palestinian capability is embodied by the impossibility of penetrating the Palestinian phenomena through their national antithesis or their pan-Arab antithesis. Zionsim is totally bankrupt in the face of the unity of Palestinian steadfastness within the occupied territory. Sectarianism is totally bankrupt outside the occupied territories in the face of the unity of the Palestinians in the battle for survival and the battle to defend the camps in Lebanon.

The Palestinians are united in their fight for survival in the face of the Zionist threat and the sectarian threat. This time as well political 'Alawite Islam was bankrupt in tying the Palestinians to the false belief because all of the Palestinians fought and joined the same trench under the command of the military committee for the defense of the camps to fight the most honorable battles of our national unity. The military committee is directly linked to the commander of the Palestinian revolution, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

In our present Arab situation, which we described at the beginning, Palestinians have no right to carry arms or to reorganize themselves. The sectarian force feels that a sectarian solution in Lebanon and Syria, if it is to be successful and complete by establishing sectarian statelets in Lebanon, requires the deportation of Palestinians from Lebanon to Jordan. To the sectarians and Zionists, Jordan is the alternative homeland for the Palestinians. The last battle began in Al-Rashidiyah because the south [of Lebanon] is the proposed sectarian canton so that it will separate Zionist Israel and 'Alawite Syria.

The gist of the situation now is that the Palestinian revolution, or more accurately the Palestinians in general in Lebanon and Syria, represent the genuine force against sectarian hegemony. This force must be destroyed. In fact, the thrid camps war is a war of the comprehensive destruction of the camps. The small camps in the Tyre, Al- Burghuliyah, Abu al-Aswad, and in the Al-Nabatiyah areas have actually been destroyed. Moreover, 3,000 Palestinians were deported. The UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] says the number of those deported from Tyre was 13,290 Palestinians as of 1 December 1986.

In fact, the camp wars are essentially wars between a national, pan-Arab force, which is the Palestinian revolution, and sectarian forces trying to undermine the pan-Arab unity of Arab masses and also trying to establish, forever, the conditions of their sectarian authority on a firm base denying their national and pan-Arab antithesis which represents the majority. The Amal gangs represent the strike force of sectarian 'Alawite Islam and also of racist Zionism that is occupying Palestine. The incident in Maghdushah is a lesson. Syrian helicotpers carried the 1st Brigade forces commanded by Ibrahim Shahin from Al-Biqa' to Maghdushah to prevent Amal's collapse in (Al-Fayshir). Consequently, the Amal forces were reinforced. At 1100 on the same day, the enemy aircraft bombed the Palestinian forces positions in Maghdushah. The Israeli military editor of the newspaper *The Jerusalem Post* commented on the Israeli bombing. He said Israel regards the control of Maghdushah by the Palestinians as a serious turning point in the ongoing war in Lebanon that constitutes a threat to Israeli security. In view of Amal's weakness and its military defeat before the Palestinian fighters and also in view of the Syrian regime's failure to interfere and decide matters, a direct Israeli interference in favor of Amal was inevitable to prevent Amal's complete collapse. After this, we need not talk long about stripping Amal of the nationalist nature desptie actions by the ayatollahs of Iran who are involved in direct dealings with Israel.

A question which no longer needs an answer is that the Syrian 'Alawism is in turn an ally of the Iranian ayatollahs. This 'Alawism fully realizes that the Amal gangs are guarding the Israeli enemy borders and receiving Israeli aid just like Antoine Lahd and his predecessor Sa'd Haddad. This is a series of links which begins with Zionism and includes the Amal gangs, 'Alawite Islam, and the Iranian ayatollahs who harbor a grudge toward pan-Arabism, and who now try to destroy this pan-Arabism by their sectarian, fascist slogans.

Naturally, the exposure of this sectarian situation that has shameful relationships, connections, and interests does not ease the burdens of the Palestinian and Arab struggle. The defeat of 'Alawite Islam and its sectarian plan in Syrian and Lebanon is an urgent, major task today which should be carried out by the masses of the Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian peoples because 'Alawite Islam is a cancer that destroys the entire Arab body. If the Arab political language is shameful in dealing with and covering up this danger, then this is primarily due to the fact that the traditional Arab force which controls entities does not want the Palestinian revolution to triumph and does not seek the victory of pan-Arabism. Moreover, this traditional Arab force is willing to accept the sectarian domination of Lebanon and Syria and also to accept the Zionist presence in Palestine to prevent the return of the pan-Arab awareness and awakening.

There is a flaw in the confrontation of the sectarian phenomenon within the nationalist ranks and even within the ranks of a number of Palestinian factions. Some progressive Arab forces adopt a naive stand on the current struggle against the 'Alawite sectarianism and, intentionally, without awarenss and occasion-

ally for the sake of narrow interests, confuse Syria's stance and its required role in confronting Zionism and imperialism and its current stance under the 'Alawite sectarian authority. Today Syria is not playing a pan-Arab role but a sectarian one which directly and objectively coincides with the Zionist-Israeli role. The stand on the Palestinian revolution will always be the only measure of determining whether the policy of this or that regime or force is correct. Our question is: Why do some Arab and even international progressive forces discard this measure and standard and replace it with ridiculous aspirations which will ultimately be regarded as the conspiracy of remaining silent on the sectarian role which fragments and destroys and which is being frankly implemented by Hafiz al-Asad's sectarian regime?

And now, has the camps war stopped after more than 80 days of siege and destruction? Has sectarianism achieved any of its objectives since the moment the siege of the Al-Rashidiyah refugee camp began? This war has not achieved its objectives despite all the destruction it has caused. The defeat of the sectarian-Zionist front in the battle of Maghdushah and its failure to storm Al-Rashidiyah and Shatila forced it to temporarily stop and rebuild. However, the battle against the refugee camps has not ceased because these camps constitute a strong, cohesive Palestinian force which harbors anti-sectarian and anti-Zionist objectives. They will always be a threat to the establishment of any sectarian structure in Syria and Lebanon, and threaten the usurping Zionists who bombarded Maghdushah by land, sea, and air to avert the defeat of the Amal gangs.

Despite all of the destruction and the massacres in the refugee camps, the Palestinians achieved their great victory — the unity which was embodied in the battlefield in all the refugee camps and under all circumstances. All of the Palestinians fought under one Palestinian banner, obtained their arms from the same source, and shared their bread and sparse water for which they dug deep under the refugee camps for their thirsty children. Since the objectives of any unity is to direct the Palestinian rifles to achieve the one aim, our unity is firm and deep. This constitutes a great danger to all our enemies. Undoubtedly, all the Palestinian factions which knew how to unify their ranks to defend the people, refugee camps, and the revolution have learned their lesson well. Unity is our sharpest weapon in the face of sectarians and Zionists. Greetings to the man of the revolution and refugee camps, the spirit of the revolution and refugee camps, the leader of the revolution, Yasir 'Arafat.

PLO Envoy on Husayn-Mubarak Talks, Coordination

JN291946 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1740 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Telephone interview with Rafiq al-Natshah, also known as Abu Shakir, PLO representative in Saudi Arabia, by Radio Monte Carlo news director Antoine Nawfal — live or recorded]]

[Nawfal] Let us hear Rafiq al-Natshah's response to the statement by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid on the Jordanian readiness to begin dialogue with the PLO.

[Al-Natshah] Mr Nawfal, I would like to thank President Husni Mubarak for his eagerness to have coordination between the Jordanian Government and us continue. I would like to express my happiness at King Husayn's consent to resume coordination with the PLO. However, I hope everyone will understand that any coordination with the Jordanian Government or any Arab regime must take into consideration the PLO's political program and the PLO's principles, particularly its adherence to establishing an independent Palestinian state, achieving the right of self-determination, and participating in an international conference on an equal footing with other parties.

In view of these principles and our political program, we welcome any coordination with any Arab regime, particularly with the Jordanian Government with which we seek coordination on these clear, frank bases so we can continue serving our common cause.

[Nawfal] Has there been any change in the PLO's position regarding international resolutions, particularly Resolution 242?

[Al-Natshah] Our position on Resolution 242 is clear and unchanging and we cannot retreat from this position in any way. The Palestinian National Councils and the leaderships which emanated from them have affirmed that Resolution 242 cannot be a basis for a solution of the Palestinian problem because it ignores the natural, legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the PLO. Therefore we clearly and frankly announce that we cannot deal with Resolution 242 in any way unless it includes these rights.

[Nawfal] How can you foresee any rapprochement with Jordan if the basis of the differences was Resolution 242?

[Al-Natshah] Undoubtedly there are joint approaches between us and Jordan. Agreement to Resolution 242 was not discussed in any meeting on the leadership level. The PLO's stand on Resolution 242 should not surprise the Jordanian Government. The Palestine National Council which was held in Amman rejected this resolution for the reasons I have just outlined. The Jordanian Government is aware of the stand of the PLO and the Palestinian leadership on various levels on this resolution. Therefore there is nothing new in our stand. We regret to reiterate that we cannot deal with Resolution 242 as long as it ignores the Palestinian people's national rights.

[Nawfal] Do you think there is cause for optimism concerning dialogue with Jordan?

[Al-Natshah] Yes, there is a lot to be optimistic about. It is enough for us to overcome the adverse effects which might develop as a result of a lack of coordination. It is enough to cooperate to serve our people in the occupied territory and to support their steadfastness and to coordinate together to realize joint aims with Jordan — aims which the PNC decided upon and which the Jordanian Government knows. It never occurred to us or to the Jordanian Government that coordination meant abandoning our political program and principles. We have never heard such a thing and we cannot approve or accept such a thing.

KUWAIT

Al-Sabah: Oil To Be Sold at New OPEC Price 1 Feb

LD301146 Kuwait KUNA in English 0903 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 30 (KUNA) — Kuwait's Oil Minister 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Sabah said that Kuwait starts selling its petroleum at the new OPEC-fixed price of 16.67 U.S. dollars per barrel as from February 1st. He told local daily *Al-Qabas* today that he will not accept any compromise on the price which was set by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) at its latest meeting ten days ago and the customers are free to accept or reject sales at that price.

The minister denied that this policy has been set in coordination with Saudi Arabia and Iran, noting that if the two states had also adopted that policy on prices, it is in conformity with the OPEC decision. Al-Khalifa denied reports that Kuwait has contingened [as received] reducing production with OPEC member states' adherence with the decision of the price hike.

The minister reiterated Kuwait's abidance to decisions on prices and production and it will take the necessary action to stay in line with its production quota of about 948,000 barrels per day.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd Speaks on Reduced Production Proposal

LD251813 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0830 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Dhahran, 25 December 1986 — The servant of the two holy places, King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz met with students and members of the teaching staff of King Fahd University in Dhahran in an open meeting last night during which he answered questions: [passage omitted]

[Question] Your majesty, the servant of the two holy places: OPEC agreed to decrease production and increase prices in its last meeting in Geneva. This represents a great victory of your wise policy in this field. However, the history of OPEC shows that some states lack commitment to abide by production quotas or to follow the agreed price. What will be your stand if some of these states do not commit themselves to the agreed prices and quotas?

[Fahd] It is known that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia relies, first, on God, and then on its oil production. I believe that the reduction of quotas was necessary because currently the world market has a 250-350 million barrel surplus over what is being produced. I believe that the OPEC member states this time have become fully convinced that reduced production is the only way to absorb the quantities now existing on the market.

We see now that oil prices have increased by a very good rate in Europe and America, and it is probable that they will go higher [words apparently missing] When Geneva's first conference ended and two committees were formed, one of these was a committee for price fixing, and the other for looking into quotas. Thus, the kingdom saw that there was no need for the committee for price fixing to delay, as the first Geneva conference should have looked into prices — the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as you know, was the one that proposed a price increase to $18 on the condition that all OPEC members commit themselves to it. This is not a final price, but a price minimum of $18. The feasibility of this is another question; one sometimes lacks the will or the capability to do it.

The OPEC meeting in Geneva has ended and two committees were appointed, as I mentioned earlier: A committee devoted to presenting proposals on prices to the secretary general of the organization prior to review by the oil ministers this month; and the committee for quotas, as it is set now. This was the subject of concern of the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the subject of my own personal concern. I have met with officials of some states that have specific viewpoints. We have studied the issue and have agreed on a specific level as being the minimum that we should reach — and this is $18 per barrel. There were other states that probably had viewpoints. We always respect all the different views presented to OPEC regardless of anything else.

I contacted many leaders of OPEC until we overcame the problems and it was agreed that the price fixing committee would decide before the meeting that has now ended.

The committee, which was chaired by Kuwait and had Libya and Ecuador as members, met in Ecuador and agreed that the price should be $18. As you might have noticed, prices did not fall as quickly between the first and last Geneva conference as they had previously. We all know how the prices fell before the first Geneva conference. They reached $11, $12 , and at some points even $10. However, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has avoided that situation by presenting its proposal. The Council of Ministers have issued a statement on this. As soon as he began his duties, Brother Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and natural resources, issued a statement on the specific issues. Consequently, we notice that the prices have fluctuated in the range of $13, $14, and $15.50.

Be sure that without the concerted efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the efforts by the other brother members of OPEC — and I must say this precisely — the price of oil would have fallen to its previous limit. Two years ago, oil production fell sharply. Eventually,even the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was producing 4.35 million barrels, whereas its production should have been 6 million barrels.

All of us know that previously our production was about 11 million barrels. Several comments were made that if production decreased, the market price would fall; effectively, production fell to 9 million and then stayed between 8 and 9 million barrels a day. After that it reached 6, then 4.35 million barrels a day. It fell sharply some time ago and this continued for a long time until the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia could not export — or more precisely sell — more than 2 million barrels a day or 2.2 or 2.3 million barrels, and these limits remained consistent. Thus, we ask why, for instance, a budget study was postponed several times. This was an attempt to find a way to fulfill the commitments of the government.

I personally took charge of that, and the cabinet issued a statement defining and explaining the facts to OPEC members. What we indicated in the statement is that Saudi Arabia is committed to not increasing its production — we had been accused of saying one thing, yet increasing our production. But I totally assured the brothers that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia honors its word, as we have affirmed repeatdly, and as has been confirmed by the minister of oil and mineral resources, brother Hisham Nazir, in an official statement.

When we requested the convening of the tripartite committee, which includes Ecuador, Libya, and Kuwait, it met in Ecuador and adopted the opinion of the Kingdom, which it described as a proper opinion in everyone's interest. The committee was also convinced that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia truly desires to be the first one to sacrifice for the sake of returning prices to their normal level. This was confirmed during OPEC's recent meeting, which ended a few days ago. We have heard that the oil price has now exceeded $17.5 per barrel, or something of this sort.

The amount of oil now on the market is being insured by several companies and companies of shareholders, which might save up old stocks that they could have bought cheaply; they also have refineries that are selling refined substance one time, and non-refined substance another time. This quantity must be absorbed by the markets and consumers. Then production must increase.

This time things are organized, since OPEC members have agreed to produce within the limits agreed on by every state. I assure you that the the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was the first to comply with this and will continue to be fully committed to them. We would be the last member to contravene this decision. The important thing is that production increases should be in accordance with the market demand and not in accordance with collusion, because production collusion harms OPEC states. Oil producing countries, either OPEC's 13 states or the states that are not OPEC members, have now benefitted from what has happened.

According to what I have heard and according to what has been reported by international radios, non-OPEC members have reduced their prices as well because the interest which they seek to attain if they increase their prices is exactly the same interest that they can get in case of a decrease in their produciton. Therefore, it is hopeful that we will follow that right path, the path to which we are committed — 12 states are committed to it.

Commitment is a very important thing. I do not think — I do not even imagine — that there is a state that is trying to increase its production beyond this limit, because if any state does this what can stop the others from doing the same? Then chaos will occur as it did before. I believe that the chaos that prevailed in the past pressed home the idea that groundless production increases have this essential element to them.

There is nothing to prevent us from monitoring the situation on international markets, and if we find that what is present is stocked by several companies and that the market warrants an increase, I am saying that there is no objection to an increase, but this increase should include everybody and distribution should be an added increase based on OPEC quotas, which are quotas attributed to OPEC members. When things are organized, the increase will be gradual in accordance with market demand, in the belief that this increase concerns us since we are a producing state; we are also concerned that the consumer should not suffer.

As you know, during one of the past years oil prices went up to $34 per barrel, but Saudi Arabia stopped at the $28 per barrel limit. Despite the fact that many people, even those who are friendly toward the Kingdom, criticized us when we stopped at 28 dollars, what happened during the 1 or 2 months when our sales reached 11 million barrels at a time when the ones who were selling at $34 saw their production decline by half? People usually seek to buy from the state whose word is solid; and they said Saudi Arabia's word is good, and will not change.

The word of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will never change. We do not want to compete with anyone. We all know that Saudi Arabia has a big production capability since it is able to produce 15 million barrels daily, but this is not our way, and it will never be in any case. Our main concern is based on OPEC solidarity. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will absolutely never increase its production unless the markets warrant an increase in production for the sake of the consumer, and that is a matter which is up to OPEC.

In this case, an OPEC meeting should take place and accordingly, quotas should be fairly distributed among the states that can produce more. I believe that this is what will happen, God willing. If a state breaches this undertaking to take advantage of the opportunity, one cannot carry one barrel of oil in one's pocket; and every barrel sold is known. Since we know very well the details of matters, we will know how much every state produces daily. Even if it increases its production by 10 barrels, we will know that this is an increase, where does this increase go? Does it sell it to companies? Do companies buy it publicly?

I am convinced that thing are going in the right direction, and that there is conviction among OPEC members, and that God willing, we will be always in the forefront. It is true that we have reduced our production from 4.35 millionbarrels to approximately 4.15 million barrels or less; but the decrease was the sake of interest. What does our production reduction mean, in line with the rest of our brothers? This means that instead of selling one barrel at $14 we will sell at $18 or $19. I believe that is more beneficial than (?higher production).

You know that the consumer and those who own refineries are interested in buying at cheaper prices, but what happened at the recent Geneva meeting is a clear, plain, and understandable thing. The agreement reached by OPEC states is an agreement based on experience, expertise, and reality. At the time when we are hoping to pursue this path I would like to confirm what I have previously stated: That Saudi Arabia will be first and last one committed, and no fault will come from it, God willing.

[Question] The Kingdom is working toward fixing prices at about $18. What is the effect of this on production? What is the extent of cooperation of producing states outside OPEC, particularly Britain?

[Fahd] This is a good question. Anyway, I mentioned that $18 is not the maximum ceiling, but it is not less than $18. If there is a demand in the markets for a production increase, it should be made known that there is such demand. For example: 1 million, 2 million, 3 million, 4 or 5 million barrels. Then they should be distributed on a quota basis among OPEC member-states. Despite the fact that I do not know the opinion of non-OPEC members, I have heard on the news today that they are all prepared, out of their own choice, to reduce their production until it is compatible with OPEC's.

This means that the matter has become amicable, and that there is an understanding between the thirteen states of OPEC and non-OPEC producing states. According to what I have heard from the Saudi oil minister, Saudi oil minister, some ministers have been entrusted with contacting states that are non-OPEC members to explain things in a detailed and satisfactory way to them, because it is in our mutual interest for us and other non-OPEC states should follow the same line even if these countries are not OPEC members.

[Question] A large mineral wealth has been discovered in the Kingdom which could constitute important sources for income and require preliminary investment in the infrastructure so that they can have a beneficial yield. Is there any intention to develop this important sector and utilize its wealth for the good of the homeland and the citizens?

[Fahd] It has always been and continues to be the Saudi Arabian Kingdom's intention to have an additional source of income other than oil to rely upon after God. According to my information, we have embarked on prospection for precious metals with which the Saudi Arabian Kingdom is rich, thanks be to God and his generosity. Though, I imagine, the prospections carried out so far have only been exploratory, we are greatly interested in discovering the wealth hidden in our country, be they gold, silver, uranium, or iron, or any other metals needed by world markets.

As is known, we have at Jubayl and Yanbu' numerous establishments including petrochemical ones... [SPA ellipses] and although large sums have been spent on these factories, I am able to say that these factories have begun to produce and make contacts with countries which need their products.

The marketing of these factory products rely on two kinds of income: One, to sell their product in exchange for any of the hard currencies which are known to have market values such as the sterling, dollar, mark, or franc, and, two, to receive goods you need from the country which your product is sold to. The EEC did not impose duties in the past on some of the petrochemical products exported by us. However, I regret to hear that they have now imposed duties on them. Therefore, I will discuss this matter with those countries. If they are determined to impose additional customs duties, we have no option but to tell them that this will force us to impose the same increase. We in the kingdom are not harmed by an increase or rise in taxation imposed on products exported to those coutnries, but that will not prevent us from adopting the principle of reciprocation and imposing a similar additional duty on what ever we import from them. This means that we will treat anyone in the same way they treat us. However, I hope that we will not come to this. I always lean toward discussing every important matter before decisions are made quickly, making it difficult to retreat. [passage omitted]

For any problem the Kingdom encounters with any country, American, European or Arab, we must employ good will. If we find that these doors open to us, we will open more doors; but if we find these doors slammed in our faces, we are not forced to do anything — we will look for many ways [as heard]. We have many friends in Europe and in all countries of the world ... [SPA ellipses] there are no dangers to us, God willing... [SPA ellipses] would like to affirm to brothers that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia pursues a policy of true liberty and democracy, and it is not tied to any treaties or commitments to anyone; nor will it submit to anyone but God; to no one else will it submit.

[Question] Your Majesty, the custodian of the two holy places: We are close to the new budget a fact which announces additional steps in order to activate the economic cycle in the Kingdom. Is there any good news you can bring to the citizens?

[Fahd] In realtiy, we have suffered a lot during the past 2 years due to the sharp fall of oil prices; however, we are always eager that your country will not be in debt to or a creditor to anybody except God Almighty. I believe that it is wise that we avoid borrowing from banks or international institutions as much as we can instead of [as heard] putting pressure on ourselves in our expenditures for a year or so. If you look around you, O little brothers, you will see that the development which has taken place in your homeland from 15 years ago up until now is a development that could need 150 years. However, regarding the fact that we live this development, we do not perceive it quickly and easily.

Be definitely sure that we will try as much as we can for the next budget to be at an excellent level; it is possible that there will be less expenditures than in the previous budget. This is possible, and we must not expect that it will be less than the previous budget, because the times we went through were hard; and I believe that if a state other than the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia went through those times, it would have found itself in a very big problem. I pray to God that we will not encounter any crisis that will make the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia go backward. [passage omitted]

Fahd: New Budget 'Lower' Than Previous Years

LD291911 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1635 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 29 Dec (SPA) — This afternoon, Monday 29 December, the custodian of the two holy places, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, presided over a session of the Council of Ministers. The session opened with Koranic recitations, then the Servant of the Two Holy Places, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, made the following spontaneous speech to his brothers and sons, the citizens, on the ratification of the state budget for the new fiscal year.

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate;

Praise be to God and prayers be upon the most honorable of His Messengers — our Prophet Muhammad — may God's prayers be upon him;

Brother citizens; this year many of you may have noticed differences in the budget, either as regards its postponement or as regards the arrangement of some of its clauses due to reasons and circumstances of which citizens are fully aware.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has passed through circumstances relating to oil production and the extreme reductions that took place in this connection. Perhaps this needs no more explanation than what the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has already provided in official statements or what has already been published by newspapers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and uttered by officials who are concerned with such matters.

I can state that your government has tried, praise be to God, during these difficult circumstances to match the expectations of citizens in all matters and has tried not to burden itself with any foreign or local loans. I think that this is a most prominent achievement, of which Saudi Arabia can be proud, as it was able somehow to deal with the situation as best as possible.

When the details of the budget are issued the citizens will realize that there is a reduction compared to last year. However, this reduction does not by any means affect the general framework of the budget. We hope that in the middle of next year, God willing, the price of oil will be better than it is now. It is also hoped that it will rise to $17 or more, but this depends on the current solidarity among the OPEC countries.

In my opinion, Saudi Arabia is not the only country which wantsthis solidarity; OPEC members are desire it more than Saudi Arabia because it is in the interest of everyone. The countries which are not OPEC members, according to their press and radio news reports, are happy about the results reached by OPEC regarding reducing production.

Saudi Arabia is the first country to have tried and succeeded in reducing its production in accordance with the communiques that have been issued in the past 2 months. These communiques have confirmed during all this time that Saudi Arabia has agreed to reduce production and that it will abide by this decision until the situation improves; we hope it will improve so as to incrrease the market demand for more OPEC oil production. The revenues of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia might then be in a different situation.

It is known that Saudi Arabia previously produced at most about 11 million barrels per day, 10 or 9 million barrels. The figure then went down to 6 million and later to 4.35 million barrels. This figure has now slightly fallen. Therefore, we hope that Saudi citizens will accept this budget, which is slightly lower than previous years. However, we must not forget that the state has undertaken major projects in all sectors in past years.

This does not mean that we can say that the state has completed all its development projects or has met the citizens' need for roads, electricity, water or any other utilities, the most important of which are education and health and so on, but the state is always endeavoring to make citizens happy.

I would like to point out that the benefits allocated to citizens, such as huge allowances to subsidize food, health and fodder, have witnessed no change, thank God. The same thing applies to oil and oil derivatives.

My brother cabinet members, and primarily His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, have managed as best they could to draw up this budget irrespective of some shortcomings that it may contain. I believe that the details, which will be announced on Wednesday, God willing, will be satisfactory to the citizens. In addition to this, the current projects included in the budget amount to 144 billion Riyals. Naturally, it is known that it will not be possible to spend this sum during this year, but 50 billion riyals could be spent this year, and this a big blessing. The state was also interested, and I was personally interested, in the projects of the Two Holy Places. These projects will be at the forefront of the projects on which money will be spent this year.

I ask God to assist us all and help us to work for the sake of Islam and Muslims and to be rightfully guided by Islam. As long as we stick to our Islamic faith there is nothing to fear. Undoubtedly, the duties of the citizen in the country are enormous duties because God has honored him to be at the service of the Two Holy Places. Finally, I hope that we will be able to meet at this time every year for the welfare of our religion and life. Thank you.

Following the meeting, Information Minister, 'Ali al-Sha'ir told news agency, radio and television correspondents that the cabinet learned of the final form of the country's general budget from an explanatory memorandum presented to the cabinet by the Ministry of Finance and National Economy concerning the allocations of the budget for the next fiscal year. After discussing the new developments which occurred regarding the budget, the cabinet approved it and the allocations of its provisions, sections and general schedules. Minister al-Sha'ir concluded his statement by saying: Thus, the budget will be announced, God Willing, through the media next Wednesday, 31 December 1986. [passage omitted]

Petroleum Minister Receives PDRY Deputy Premier

LD291347 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1154 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Riyadh, 29 Dec (SPA) — Hisham Muhyi al-Din Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting planning minister, received today at the Oil Ministry Salih Abu Bakr Ibn Husaynin, PDRY deputy prime minister and minister of energy and minerals. During the meeting, participants from both sides examined bilateral issues.

YAR

President Salih Interviewed on Yemeni Unity

JN280826 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Dec 86

["Text" of interview with YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Kuwaiti magazine *Al-Majalis* editor in chief published in its 27 December issue; date and place not given — read by announcer]

[Excerpts] [*Al-Majalis*] We thank you the brother president for

granting us this opportunity to meet with him. On behalf of our esteemed readers, we ask President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih: What are your most prominent concerns during this important stage in the history of fraternal Yemen?

[Salih] [Passage omitted] Among the strategic objectives which will continue to be one of our major concerns is Yemeni unity. We and the sons of our people in the southern part struggle to attain this great objective. Unity means strength for Yemen as well as pride and dignity for Yemen. Yemeni unity will have a positive impact on Arab unity. We view Yemeni unity as the cornerstone. God willing, and thanks to all the nationalist efforts our people are exerting and the support of all the nationalist and Arab forces which seek peace, good, and amity this unity will be attained.

[*Al-Majalis*] What have these efforts achieved and did the incidents which recently took place in the southern part have an impact on efforts under way for attaining unity?

[Salih] We have achieved noticeable progress toward unity, particularly with respect to completing the draft project on a unity state constitution, which is considered an advanced step toward unity. The January incidents, which we view as being a domestic affair of our brothers, have undoubtedly had a negative impact on our Yemeni people in the two parts of the homeland.

We have been working to contain this problem from the moment it took place and to solve it among the brothers in the southern part through peaceful, fraternal, and democratic means to secure the safety of our sons in the southern part and the nonrecurrence of these incidents which resulted in great losses. We hope these incidents will not recur. As Yemenis, we will be able to overcome this problem.

[*Al-Majalis*] Your Excellency, in addition to your domestic concerns with respect to the development process, there are great Arab concerns which Your Excellency realizes very well. In your opinion, what are the ways to attain a minimum level of Arab solidarity through which some kind of an Arab consensus may be reached on many issues to avoid the current dismemberment of Arab ranks?

[Salih] One cannot but express regret over the current state of afairs. However, no matter how deep Arab differences may become, a time will inevitably come when the unity of Arab ranks will be restored. Differences occur between the memebrs of the same family on family affairs. Differences do not mean this is the end. We are optimistic and belive Arab solidarity will be restored. [Passage omitted]

[*Al-Majalis*] What about the camps war currently taking place in Lebanon?

[Salih] We regret this fighting between the Lebanese and Palestinian brothers which only serves the Arab nation's enemies. Israel is the only party which benefits from this fighting. However, we hope our brothers in Lebanon, in the Amal Movement, and in the PLO will understand this and solve the problem through understanding and fraternal dialogue. Neither the Amal movement nor our Palestinian brothers have an interest in prolonging this destructive conflict.

[*Al-Majalis*] Your Excellency, do you have a specific plan for settling the Lebanese crisis from all its aspects following the failure of all efforts?

[Salih] We have explained more than once that although the Arab group and the international community have a responsibility to assist the Lebanese brothers in settling their crisis and in restoring Lebanon's freedom, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence, the primary responsibility rests on the shoulders of the Lebanese thmselves who must solve their problems.

[*Al-Majalis*] Your Excellency, the YAR's support for the Palestinian cause, and specifically for the PLO, is evident. This support is based on a pan-Arab premise. There are attempts now to restore unity to Palestinian organizations. Your Excellency, what means should be adopted in your opinion to achieve this objective?

[Salih] We are exerting sincere efforts with all PLO factions to restore unity to the PLO because the PLO has no interest in prolonging this division. The PLO's unity constitutes a strength for the Palestinian revolution. We support the PLO and we will continue to contribute to all efforts for reuniting it.

[*Al-Majalis*] Many admit Egypt's departure from Arab ranks has weakened Arab stands in confronting enemies and has also weakened Egypt, in your opinion, how can Egyt return to the Arab fold?

[Salih] There is no doubt Egypt's weakness results in the Arab nation's weakness. The Egyptian people are a force to be reckoned with. Egypt's return to the Arab nation will be a factor of strength for the Arab nation in view of its strategic importance. We support Egypt's return within a framework acceptable to the Arab group. Egypt also cannot live without the Arab nation. [Passage omitted]

[*Al-Majalis*] What is Your Excellency's opinion of the recent U.S. arms deal with Tehran?

[Salih] It is like pouring fuel on the fire.

[*Al-Majalis*] Your Excellency, in addition to the Arab differences in the Arab East, there are differences, too, in the Arab Maghreb. In view of the close relationship between Your Excellency and President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, is it possible that you could carry out a role to approximate viewpoints between Libya and its neighbors?

[Salih] If we are asked to do so. We are always ready to do so if asked by any brother whether in the Arab East or the Arab Maghreb. We will spare no efforts. However, we believe there are many Arab leaders who are also qualified to undertake such efforts. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Interviewed on Future by AL-AHRAM

NC250740 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 25 Dec (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has said that Egypt will emerge from its economic crisis stronger than before. He added that he is not trying to paint a rosy picture, that the road will not be easy, but there is real reason for optimism. The president made these remarks in an interview with *Al-Ahram* to mark the new year. The interview will appear in tomorrow's edition.

President Mubarak told *Al-Ahram* that the most important issue for the Egyptian public is the economic problem. Great nations, he said, should learn from their ordeals. Egypt has not succumbed to this crisis; it fought the storm, Mubarak said, with faith and hard work. Next year will be better than this one, the president asserted, noting that the Egyptian economy has elements of strength, endurance, and potential.

Explaining his belief that next year will be better, Mubarak cited the following points:

1. The Egyptian people have proven their willingness to share responsibility in confronting the economic crisis. They have accepted the economic and financial reform policies. We have reduced imports of luxury goods, as well as those goods produced domestically in quantities sufficient for local market needs. We have also reduced unnecessary public expenditure, at the same time paying greater attention to the issue of social justice.
2. We are trying to improve our standing internationally, with both East and West, as much as possible. We are also trying to cultivate personal ties with leaders of all countries in every way that could help Egypt's economic efforts and raise our standard of living. I think it is now clear to everyone that the world is sympathetic to our problems and has shown real understanding of the principle of debt rescheduling. Rescheduling will help us utilize our resources more fully in terms of development.

The time will come, President Mubarak said, when I will report on the policies of major countries — European and Arab brother countries — that is, their contribution to Egypt's efforts to fight the economic crisis. I reiterate that Egypt will emerge from this crisis revitalized, and I know that all these countries believe that and base their calculations on this assumption.
3. Many new factories are now beginning operation, producing cement, building iron rods, and construction material. Land is also being rapidly reclaimed.
4. We are greatly stressing local industrialization.
5. We have issued clear instructions concerning borrowing. No loans are to be made before it is verified that the project in question will be able to pay off the debts. The state will no longer borrow unless it is convinced that this is necessary to meet its responsibility to the economy or the people. There are also indications that the price of oil is rising
6. We can strengthen our economy only by relying on our local resources and our foreign exchange revenue. This is why I am concentrating on exports, with particular emphasis on the need for both the public and private sectors to produce competitive export goods. A certain level of exports should be attained every year. As for obstacles to exports, I believe the government should interfere in the export process only in an encouraging and supportive way. Aside from that, it should remain completely neutral.
7. During the Second 5-year Plan, beginning next July, we will concentrate on productive projects, utilizing idle capacity, creating new jobs for the young, and increasing production.
8. We are fighting continuously to eliminate red tape, develop the public sector, attract investment, and eliminate obstacles facing Egyptian, Arab, and foreign investors. We are also trying to build confidence and strengthen internal stability.

In his interview with *Al-Ahram*, the president said: All this justifies my optimism about emerging from the economic crisis. In addition to the strengths I have noted, there is an essential factor we must not forget: Egyptian military power, whose defensive capability we are trying very hard to augment. I say this openly, because a strong and effective state gains the respect of its neighbors. It also supports and consolidates the strength of its friends. And I will say nothing more.

The president continued: I hope my words will not be misconstrued, that I am painting a rosy picture of the future, or that the road will be easy. Overcoming the economic crisis may take 2 or 3 years. However, I reiterate that the coming year will be better than the last. Surviving the economic crisis requires the worke and the sweat of every Egyptian citizen. I have often said that the world helps only those who help themselves.

On the situation in the Arab world, President Mubarak said: I wish the Arabs would unite their views, because this would provide the basic answer to the current dilemma. I hope the Islamic conference to be held in Kuwait next month will be an opportunity for the Arab nation to rally around a unified view of Arab and Islamic interests.

As for our relations with Arab countries, the president added, they are more than good, except for a minority which is hostile to us for one unacceptable reason or another. I repeat: No region in the world has endured the problems and wars we are facing. We must confront these problems and prevent their eroding Arab capabilities and energies. This division and disunion will make us easy prey for our enemies, and no Arab country will escape this destiny.

As for Egypt's relations with foreign countries, the president said: Egypt is linked with the United States through excellent relations. Differences of views and stands on certain matters do not spoil these relations. Our relations with the other superpower, the Soviet Union, are proceeding for the best. We also expect further development in our relations with Western European countries which fully understand our position. These are the countries which stood by us during our economic crisis and in our neogtiations with international bodies, such as the IMF and IBRD. They are the ones which support the Egyptian concept that stability and economic and financial reform can be made only through comprehensive economic and social development.

Mubarak Views Jordan Meeting as 'Successful'

NC291554 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Excerpt] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak stateu following his return to Cairo from Jordan this afternoon that his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn in Aqaba was successful. He said that during this meeting discussions dealt with Egyptian-Jordanian relations, which he described as excellent. The president noted that they also discussed pending political issues and the future of the peace process in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Talks

NC291433 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA) — Following President Mubarak's return to Cairo, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that the talks in Aqaba between the president and His Majesty King Husayn were quite lengthy. The same was true of the discussions between the Egyptian and Jordanian delegations, which were attended by Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Jordanian Court and Dr 'Abd al-Majid, who represented Egypt.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid noted that the talks centered on bilateral ties. He described the bonds between Egypt and Jordan as excellent, and as a paradigm of relations between two fraternal Arab states. He expressed hope that other Arab countries will follow Jordan's example.

Turning to international issues, he explained that the views of the two countries are similar. He asserted that Egypt's major role here is reflected in its desire to keep the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue going. The foreign minister remarked that this is an important goal. He added: I can say that we sensed a great willingness on Jordan's part in this matter, and that this is the clear policy being expressed.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid termed President Mubarak's visit to Jordan a complete success. He point out that the talks covered those issues that will be raised at the ICO conference, which is due to open in Kuwait late in January.

When asked if Egypt and Jordan had formed a united front for the conference, Dr 'Abd al-Majid replied: We cannot speak of a front. However, there has been continuous coordination and consultation between us, as well as an exchange of information at the highest levels.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid declared: We agreed not to let the peace process be frozen as it is. He noted that consultations are under way, and that some very important pieces of data are flowing back and forth. This is being done in connection with the peace process.

The foreign minister expressed hope that some practical steps will be taken in this area at the start of 1987.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that as far as Palestinian representation at the international conference is concerned, nothing has been agreed upon thus far. He asserted that the Palestinians themselves have the right to make any decision on this.

Ministry Calls for Withdrawal From Afghanistan

NC271542 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued the following statement on the 7th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan:

The Arab Republic of Egypt affirms its support for the Muslim Afghan people in their struggle for liberation, an end to foreign intervention, and the attainment of sovereignty over their own land.

Egypt joins Islamic states, the nonaligned countries, and all peaceloving nations in reiterating the urgent need to reach a settlement of the Afghan issue that will guarantee a speedy and full withdrawal of all foreign forces from Afghanistan, so that the brotherly Afghan people may regain their freedom and stability and continue their march, together with all the nonaligned countries and the Islamic world.

Ghali Says PLO-Jordan 'Alliance' Sought

NC291736 Cairo MENA in English 1418 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Dakar, Dec 29 (MENA) — Egypt is trying to overcome problems and difficulties impeding the holding of an international conference for peace in the Middle East, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butros Ghali said here today.

Egypt is also trying to convince the PLO to accept the UN Resolution No 242 and to set up an alliance with Jordan, Ghali added.

In statement to the Senegalese paper *Le Soleil*, Ghali termed the Egyptian-Arab relations as very satisfactory, adding the U.S.-Egyptian friendly and cooperation ties will not rpt not turn Egypt to an ally to the U.S., affirming Egypt's commitment to the non-alignment policy.

Egypt supports the efforts being exerted by the world community to achieve an overall solution for the restoring of peace and national reconciliation in Lebanon, Dr. Ghali said.

He pointed out that Egypt is holding contacts with different Lebanese factions to reach partial or temporary solutions to stop the deteriorating situation in Lebanon, the Egyptian minister said. [passage omitted]

Returns From Tour

NC262245 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 Dec (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo from Lusaka tonight at the end of a 2-week African tour that included stops in Congo,

Angola, and Zambia. He noted that he is carrying messages for President Husni Mubarak from six African presidents, and will submit a report to the president on the results of his trip. [passage omitted]

Ghali added that his talks with African leaders and officials focused on the continent's economic problems, the confrontation with South Africa, Namibian independence, and bilateral relations.

Commenting on Libya's acts of aggression in northern Chad, Dr Ghali reiterated Egypt's denunciation of such behavior. He also highlighted Egypt's support for the Chadian Government, and for that country's territorial integrity and defense of its international borders. He pointed out tat he explained this position at a number of news conferences.

Kuwaiti Amir's Adviser Meets President
NC300836 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd al-Rahman Salim al-'Atiqi, adviser at the court of the Kuwaiti amir, left Cairo en route to his own country last night after a visit of several hours to Egypt. He was received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak during his stay.

Communique No 2,507 on 28-29 Dec Combat

JN291737 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,507 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 29 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious forces have continued their combat activities. The results of these activities for last night and today are as follows:

1. A brave force from our units in the II Army Corps central sector raided enemy positions opposite them, destroying a machine gun and killing those manning it. Our force returned safely to base.

The soldiers of the II Army Corps also confronted an enemy group in another area of the same sector and killed two enemy personnel. The remnants of the enemy group fled, chased by the fire of our powerful artillery. A mortar, an ammunition depot, and an infantry position were also destroyed in other areas of the same sector.

2. An enemy group tried to approach our units' positions in the east of Al-Basrah sector, but the soldiers of the III Army Corps confronted them, killing or wounding several personnel and capturing two enemy personnel. Five infantry positions were destroyed, a number of scoundreal Khomeyniites were killed, one boat was destroyed and sunk, one vehicle was destroyed and another damaged, three other enemy personnel were killed, one machine gun was destroyed with those manning it killed, and two ammunition depots were destroyed in the same sector.

3. The hero VII Army Corps units carried out intensive shelling of enemy concentrations opposite them, scoring accurate and effective hits, inflicting new losses on the Khomeyniites, and destroying and sinking a boat.

4. One firing position was destroyed and one enemy soldier was killed and another wounded in the VI Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. Escaping the tyrant group in Iran, a number of Iranian soldiers sought refuge at our forward positions on the battlefront and were safely evacuated to the rear.

6. The Tehran rulers, the agents of Zionism, shelled residential areas in Basra with long-range artillery, wounding two children.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 December 1986

Air Force Carried Out 31,144 Missions in 1986

JN301042 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (INA) — The Iraqi Air Force has carried out 31,144 combat missions against Iranian military installations and positions in 1986. Statistics published here today shows an increase of 7,143 missions this year as compared with last year.

The Iraqi planes brought comprehensive destruction to Khark Island through 90 raids on the island's installations and facilities. They also hit 123 maritime targets near the Iranian coasts. The Iraqi Air Force has also successfuly accomplished the first stage of the new plan of the huge Air Force action which is aimed at the quick destruction of the Iranian regime's economic and military pillars.

UN Informed of Iranian Residential Shelling

JN300817 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] United Nations, 30 Dec (INA) — Iraq has once again informed the United Nations and the UN Security Council about the Iranian regime's continuous shelling of residential areas in Iraq.

A message delivered to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and distributed to the UN Security Council member states last night by Iraq's acting UN representative explained that Iranian planes have recently bombed residential areas in Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate and that 5 civilians were martyred and 25 others wounded.

The message added that the city of Khanaqin was also exposed to shelling from Iranian long-range artillery in which 7 civilians were martyred, including a woman and 4 children; 83 persons wounded, including 50 children; and a school, 28 shops, and 8 houses destroyed.

'Aziz Receives Afghan Foreign Ministry Official

JN292054 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has received (Marrur Bursh), Afghan Foreign Ministry under secretary. During the meeting, they discussed relations between the two friendly countries, the situation in the region, and issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by Wisam al-Zahhawi, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary; the head of the organizations department; the head of the second international department; the head of the Middle East and Africa Department of the Afghan Foreign Ministry; and the Afghan charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Jordanian-Iraqi Transport Company Begins Meetings

JN281736 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Baghdad — The meetings of the Board of Directors of the Jordanian-Iraqi Land Transport Company began in Baghdad today under Jordanian Transportation Minister Ahmad Dakhqan and Iraqi Transport and Communications Minister 'Abd al-Jabbar al-Asadi.

In a statement to a PETRA correspondent in Baghdad, the Iraqi transport minister said that during the company's 2-day meetings, the two sides will review the company's achievements, approve its budget for next year, and approve the company's

operational plan for 1987. The Iraqi transport minister said that fraternal Egypt was invited to join the company, pointing out that an Egyptian delegation visited the city of Aqaba earlier and studied the company's situation with the objective of joining it.

Transportation Minister Ahmad Dakhqan arrived in Baghdad last night heading a delegation to attend the meetings of the Jordanian-Iraqi Land Transport Company.
In a statement to a PETRA correspondent upon arrival in Baghdad, he said that he will discuss with his Iraqi counterpart ways to promote the existing cooperation between the two countries in the field of transportation. He added: In implementation of the agreement which was signed by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and the iraqi first deputy prime minister at the end of the meetings of the Jordanian-Iraqi higher joint committee which were recently held in Baghdad, I will discuss with the Iraqi officials issues related to importing goods via Aqaba Port. He expressed hope that during his visit he would sign new agreements with the Iraqi brothers in the field of transportation.

Jordan's Dakhqan Arrives

JN281932 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Baghdad — Transportation Minister Ahmad Dakhqan met with Hasan 'Ali, Iraqi RCC member and trade minister, in Baghdad today in the presence of Iraqi Transport and Communications Minister 'Abd al-Jabbar al-Asadi. During the meeting, they reviewed the developed relations between the two fraternal countries. Dakhqan also met with the Iraqi transport and communications minister in the presence of the delegation accompanying Dakhqan. During the meeting, they discussed ways to bolster cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Dakhqan arrived in Baghdad yesterday leading a Jordanian delegation to attend the meetings of the Board of Directors of the Jordanian-Iraqi Land Transport Company, which began in Baghdad today.

Transportation Agreement Signed

JN291845 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Iraq and Jordan have signed the joint minutes for cooperation in the field of land transportation between the two fraternal countries. They were signed on the Iraqi side by Transportation and Communications Minister 'Abd al-Jabbar al-Asadi and signed on the Jordanian side by Jordanian Transportation Minister Ahmad Dakhqan. The two ministers exchanged speeches expresing the growing relations between the two fraternal countries. The ceremony was attended by the Iraqi Transportation and Communications Ministry under secretary, the Jordanian Transportation Ministry under secretary, and members of both delegations.

National Assembly Endorses Foreign Trade Plan

JN291721 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] During its session today under Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and National Assembly speaker, the National Assembly endorsed the foreign trade plan for 1987. Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister who attended the session, reviewed the bases adopted by the Ministry of Trade in preparing the plan as well as the goals it is seeking to achieve in both the export and import fields.

The trade minister affirmed the plan will serve the goals of the Ba'th party, the revolution, and the masses in light of leader President Saddam Husayn's instructions to maintain the availability of consumer goods and commodities for citizens, pointing out the ministry will exert more efforts to benefit from Iraq's economic, trade, and technical relations with the world to promote trade in the service of the goals of the foreign trade plan in terms of export and import and to reinforce the economic and combat capabilities of our people and brave army. Hasan 'Ali also said the plan was prepared in light of the continuation of the aggressive war against our people.

Afterwards, the trade minister answered questions by National Assembly members who expressed reservations about the goals of the plan in terms of import and export, the bases pursued in preparing the plan, and commodities affecting citizens' lives. The session was attended by Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj, Finance Minister Hisham Hasan Tawfiq, and a number of Ministry of Trade officials.

President Mubarak Cables Thanks to King Husayn
JN291350 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] King Husayn received a cable from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, as his plane was leaving Jordanian airspace, expressing thanks and gratitude for the hospitality and sincere sentiments with which he was greeted during his visit to Jordan. The president said a spirit of complete friendship and frankness characterized the talks with King Husayn at this serious juncture of the Arab nation's history. Mubarak said the talks had reconfirmed the firm and constructive stands taken by the leaderships of the two friendly countries on regional security and stability in the interest of the welfare and prosperity of the people of the area and enhanced Arab solidarity. President Mubarak expressed his best wishes to King Husayn.

Cabinet Allocates 37,000 Dinars for Camps
JN292121 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] The Council of Ministers has approved a proposal made by the minister for occupied territories' affairs to allocate 37,000 dinars for a number of projects for refugee and emigrant camps in various parts of the kingdom. Under the approval, 10,000 dinars will be spent on paving and asphalting roads in the Suf camp for emigrants; 12,000 dinars for paving and asphalting roads in the Jarash camp; 1,500 dinars from the Occupied Territories Affairs Ministry to establish a library for the youth club in the Prince Hasan camp, which will cost approximately 6,000 dinars; 2,500 dinars for establishing a center for the handicapped in the martyr 'Azmi al-Mufti camp, in addition to approximately 10,000 dinars to accommodate 55 handicapped in the camp; and 6,000 dinars for lighting the streets of the Martyr 'Azmi al-Mufti and Jarash camps.

In accordance with the approval, 3,000 dinars will be spent on building a mosque in the Jarash camp, which will cost about 12,000 dinars; 2,000 dinars on supporting the Family Care Society and the poor and needy families in the centers of the emigrants camps; 27,000 dinars on maintenance works on such centers in the Hittin camp; and 500 dinars on supporting the branches of the Arab fund society for child care in the camps. The Council of Ministers also agreed to buy 7,000 tons of flour to be distributed to the emigrants through the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply.

Birri Announces Amal Cease-Fire 29 Dec
JN291857 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] At a news conference this afternoon, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri said that despite the fact that the Al-Rashidiyah camp is not in need of foodstuffs, despite the siege that is clamped on the south and the cutoff of water and electricity to Tyre, and in view of the Syrian position and Iran's desire, the Amal Movement announces its commitment to the following points as a gift to the Palestinians on the new year:

1. Complete adherence to a cease-fire throughout Lebanon effective immediately.

2. No solution to the conflict between Amal and the Palestinians unless the Iranian plan is implemented.

3. The Amal leadership in Beirut and the south will be asked to take measures to introduce foodstuffs and medicine into the camps and to evacuate the wounded to prove Amal's good intentions.

Birri accused the Palestinians of violating the agreement by their failure to leave Maghdushah. He also accused Yasir 'Arafat of wanting to preserve the current status quo and to increase the tension until the Islamic summit is held in Kuwait. He also denied that the PLO played any role in releasing the French hostages. He asserted that Amal, alongside Palestinian nationals, will continue to defend the Palestinian cause and people. He denied reports about cooperation between him and President al-Jumayill against the Palestinians. He accused the Lebanese Forces and the Phalangists of facilitating the entry of Palestinians belonging to 'Arafat from Juniyah to the Shatila camp.

Birri said that he resides in Syria voluntarily and thanked the Syrian leadership, which has tried and is trying to make the Iranian project a success and to stop the bloodshed.

Concluding his statement, Birri accused some Palestinian factions of presenting a new plan every day in an attempt to avoid the Iranian plan on which Amal and the PNSF have agreed. Birri asked these people to implement the national salvation decision — namely, withdrawal from Maghdushah and return to the camps. He said he would then be prepared to sit with them and agree on a solution satisfactory to all.

Cease-Fire Not in Effect
NC301030 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Intermittent artillery fire is taking place along the Shatila combat lines. One exchange martyred three children and wounded another three. A guarded calm, broken by occasional shots from snipers, now prevails in Al-Rashidiyah.

As is known, Nabih Birri announced a cease-fire yesterday, which was welcomed by the PNSF. However, this accord has yet to be put in force.

PNSF Leader Thanks Iran
LD301026 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Damascus, Dec 30, IRNA — The National Salvation Front leader Khalid al-Fahum expressed appreciation for the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts to end the war at refugee camps in Lebanon and for the Amal Movement's unilateral declaration of a cease fire as well as its decision to lift the siege of Al-Rashidiyah camp.

He told IRNA Monday [29 December] that the National Salvation Front is committed to respecting the cease fire.

Al-Fahum emphasized that Islamic Republic of Iran's peace plan should be fully implemented and that the group under his leadership highly values the Iranian authorities', especially President Khamenei's, efforts to put an end to camps war.

He also thanked Syria for its role in the matter.

Islamic Jihad Warns Media Over Reports on Hijack
NC301013 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 29 Dec 86 p 8

[Statement by Islamic Jihad sent to *Al-Nahar* in Beirut along with a picture of American hostage Terry Anderson]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

"Ye who believe! If a wicked person comes to you with any news, ascertain the truth, lest ye harm people unwittingly, and afterward become full of repentance for what ye have done." [Koranic verse] Verily God Almighty spoke the truth.

To the public and to the local and international mass media: We would like to deny reports carried by the media that the Islamic Jihad Organization has claimed responsibility for the operation involving the Iraqi airliner. We also wish to stress the following points:

1. In our previous statements, we explained how we would deal with the press and media. We noted that our declarations would be accompanied by a piece of evidence — namely, a photo of one of the detainees in our custody. Therefore, any statement lacking such evidence cannot be one of ours.

2. The frequency with which reports attributed to our organization have been disseminated by the media is further proof of how deeply some of these media are involved with local and international intelligence services. We warn them of the consequences of continuing this policy. From now on, any news service that does so will suffer our response, which will be merciless.

3. In its Jihad approach, our organization (as noted in the statement) [not further specified] does not enter into alliances with deviant parties, which have grown outdated due to ineffec-

tiveness, bankruptcy, and retreat from the true line of Jihad. All efforts by these parties to exploit the work of Mujahedin and to use it for their personal gain are doomed to fail. We will be waiting for such attempts.

Signed:

The Islamic Jihad Organization

December 1986

Syrian Envoy Meets With Al-Huss, Al-Husayni
NC291917 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Political sources in West Beirut say that the possibility of a [Lebanese-Syrian] summit is increasing and that a meeting between the two leaders is imminent. The same sources expect the summit to take place suddenly and very soon.

Labor and Education Minister al-Huss has said: There is a real possibility that the summit will take place. However, there is nothing definite that can be announced at this stage. Al-Huss' statement came following a meeting with Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali, envoy of Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Al-Haj 'Ali also met with Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies al-Husayni and gave him a message from Khaddam. Al-Husayni stressed the importance of the continuing Syrian role.

Oil Minister on Foreign Aid for Oil Industry

JN292001 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 28 Dec 86 p 6

[Text] Al-Dammam *Al-Yawm* — Washington — Syria has affirmed that it is ready to run its local oil industry without any foreign assistance. Syrian Oil and Mineral Wealth Minister Ghazi al-Durubi announced that any Western move to withdraw the Western oil companies operating in Syria will not have much effect on Syria's oil industry, adding that Syria is ready to face all possibilities in case the foreign companies withdraw.

The Syrian official was referring to decisions by the EEC and the United States to impose economic sanctions on Syria in solidarity with Britain, which claimed that Syria was involved in an attempt to blow up an El Al airliner bound for Tel Aviv from Heathrow Airport. Al-Durubi was also quoted as saying that Syria has qualified national personnel capable of running the local oil industry without any foreign assistance.

Policy on Lebanon, Arab Cause Reiterated

JN291506 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Respected listeners: During an audience with a delegation of the Lebanese Islamic Unification Movement, President Hafiz al-Asad reiterated Syria's concern for Tripoli's security. He affirmed Syria's determination to work to preserve the city's security in the interests of its inhabitants and its future stability.

Syria's interest in Tripoli's security is not new, and Syria's interest is not confined to this city. It is an expression of Syria's principled policy toward fraternal Lebanon based on extending all possible assistance to the Lebanese brothers to overcome the anomalous situation caused by 11 years of internal strife. Previous experience has shown that Syria has never hesitated to respond to the appeals of the Lebanese brothers and to extend the required assistance whenever possible.

Syria's eagerness to preserve the security of the Lebanese brothers and to help them overcome the complex difficulties facing them has always been coupled with a distinction between those who work for their country and those who work with suspect external inspiration to create situations serving only the enemies of Lebanon, Syria, and all Arabs.

While extending assistance to the Lebanese brothers who are concerned about their own safety and stability and who are eager to extricate their country from its troubles and abnormal situation, Syria always reiterates to those who believe they can confuse Syria's position in Lebanon or divert it from its basic battle against imperialism, Zionism, and their projects, that Syria does not forgive the suspect ones, the hirelings, and those who receive instructions from abroad. Syria does not tolerate the dirty hands that exploit everything, including religion and sectarianism, to serve ends that have nothing to do with religion, morality, nationalism, pan-Arabism, or hostility to imperialism and Zionism.

The plotters in the cellars of Washington and Tel Aviv and in the dens of defeatists, hagglers, and those who trade with the cause and who dream of using Lebanon as a tool to pressure Syria and confuse its leadership to divert it from the basic Arab battle against imperialism, Zionsim, agents, deviators, traitors, hirelings, and the Camp David line — all these must meet with disappointment and frustration because nothing will be able to divert Syria from its basic battle and pan-Arab commitment or make it forget its enemy and the enemy of the Arab nation. Nothing will make Syria forget that the nation's enemy is in occupied Palestine and in the occupied southern Lebanese territory.

Syria's insistence on shouldering its responsibilities toward the Arab nation has on the one hand made it a pioneering Arab force bent on liberating occupied Arab territory, restoring usurped Arab rights, and gathering around it the Arab masses and pan-Arab forces that reject capitulation, and on the other hand has made it the target of plots, pressures, and imperialist and Zionist threats.

Saddam Husayn's suspect aggression against the Iranian revolution has all along failed to divert Syria's attention and interest from the basic pan-Arab battle in Palestine. 'Arafat's deviationist leadership has fabricated differences with Syria to facilitate its entry into the Camp David orbit, but has failed to divert Syria from the pan-Arab battle or change its noble stand on the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people's rights.

Therefore, the lackeys of imperialism and Zionism and the tools of deviation and capitulation will never be able to divert Syria's attention from the Arab nation's battle. This is the secret of Syria's strength and this is the essence of its policy in Lebanon and everywhere.

Arabs' 'Sudden Interest' in Lebanon Noted

JN241457 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: Every now and then, some official or nonofficial Arab side shows sudden interest in Lebanon and in the conditions of the Palestinians there. Most of the time this interest is confined to rhetoric, similar to that expressed by the Arab League and its secretary general immediately following the establishment of the aggressive, racist Zionist entity on Palestinian soil. It is well know that heated statements, pompous speeches, and emotional appeals have not changed anything because they were not coupled with actions commensurate with statements and speeches. We do not mean to be sarcastic when we say that statements hostile to the imperialist and Zionist plots and not supported by actions or by a realistic policy in confronting the enemies and their methods cannot lead to useful and practical results.

Shedding tears over the conditions in Lebanon and over the Palestinians there will not benefit the Lebanese or the Palestinians, will not solve any of the current complications in Lebanon, and will not help reach a national solution there. Those who

thought that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon with the open blessing of the United States did not justify holding Arab meetings on any level, whether within the Arab League or outside it, cannot now find a convincing justification for dealing with issues that are strictly internal Lebanese problems. Those who stood as spectators when the U.S. war machine wreaked havoc in Lebanon, savagely killing Lebanese people, destroying their property, indiscriminately occupying their territory, and attacking all the Lebanese towns and villages as well as the Palestinian refugee camps; and those who kept silent over the Israeli massacres, which wiped out tens of thousands of Lebanese and Palestinian people — they will not find convincing justifications for their sudden interest in the differences fabricated by the defeatists and those who aspire to sit at the negotiating table of capitulation, such as the deviationist 'Arafat group, with the open blessing of Israel and the United States.

Those who really want to end what they complain about in Lebanon should not wade in the waves of emotional speeches and statements. They should throw their weight behind efforts to stop the plotting of those who are playing with fire and who are tampering with the Palestinian people's cause, the cause of the Lebanese national resistance against the Israeli occupation, and the cause of Arab steadfastness. They should pool all the Arab resources to resist Israel and U.S. imperialism, stop the trends of defeatism and capitulation, and end the despicable trading with the blood and cause of the Palestinian Arab people.

Those who really defend the Palestinian Arab people's cause must of necessity be on the side of the Lebanese national resistance against the Israeli occupation. They must not allow themselves to instigate those who fight for the same cause to take up arms against each other. It is impossible for those who want to resist Israel to take up arms against the national resistance that fights the Israeli occuaption. Those who want to defend the Palestinian Arab people's cause cannot work against the front that is actively confronting the Israeli occuaption, plans, and plots to liquidate the Paelstinian cause and include Lebanon in Israel's security belt.

Those who stand to benefit from weakening or confusing the anti-Israel front in Lebanon are Israel, the United States, the agents, the deviationists, the capitulationists, and those who look forward to direct negotiations with Israel from a position of weakness, humiliation, and supplication. Sincere Arab efforts should be directed against those who serve the enemy's aims. These efforts should serve the Lebanese people's steadfastness and the Palestinian Arab people's adherence to their inalienable rights and their rejection of all compromises over these rights.

Medical Aid for Lebanon Arrives in Damascus

LD281125 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0936 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Damascus, 28 Dec JANA — A medical team that includes a number of Libyan doctors and nurses has arrived in Damascus during the past 2 days. A large consignment of medicines, medical equipment, and milk for children also arrived. The medical team will provide necessary medical services for the wounded in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, which have been subjected to a war of annihilation and siege by the Shi'ite despair gangs. This move comes after an emergency meeting of the Libyan-Palestinian medical committee held recently in Tripoli.

Iranian Envoy on Conference With Iraqis

JN241911 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Damascus, 24 Dec (SANA) — Iranian Ambassador in Damascus Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari emphasized that the objectives of a conference of solidarity with the Iraqi people in Tehran are to create further harmony in the struggle of the oppressed Iraqi people and to develop this struggle against the fascist regime ruling Iraq.

In a news conference today, Akhtari pointed out that the conference of solidarity with the Iraqi people, in which Iraqi opposition leaders and delegations from friendly Islamic countries are participating and which will continue until 27 December, will discuss a number of issues related to the Iraqi people and the future of Iraq as a country that must be liberated from tyranny and oppression in a manner that safeguards its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and its people's right to self-determination.

The Iranian ambassador added: When it imposed its war on Iran, Saddam's regime was seeking to partition Iran, to eliminate the contradictions between its dictatorial course and the course pursued by the struggles of the Iranian Islamic revolution and to make this unjust war an Arab-Persian war. But, he continued, this conspiracy was foiled, thanks to the honorable stands of some friends of the Iranian Islamic revolution in some progressive Arab countries, headed by Syria and Libya.

U.S. Decision Creates Snag for Arms Sales To RSA

TA251040 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew
25 Dec 86 p 1

[Report from Jerusalem by the political correspondent]

[Text] From now on an interministerial committee will have to approve every trip made by a senior official to South Africa in light of the sensitivity involved.

The committee was issued instructions not to approve trips to South Africa except in extraordinary circumstances. One can assume that ministers will definitely not be permitted to travel to that country to the extent they did in the past. The committee, however, has no say in private travel.

Israel confronts a difficult political problem now that Congress has passed a resolution that requires the President to report which of those countries receiving U.S. aid are violating the arms embargo on South Africa.

Congress recommends that those countries selling arms to South Africa not receive U.S. aid. Israel has commercial ties with South Africa that include the sale of weapons. In the wake of the U.S. resolution Israel will have to halt its arms sales to this country.

VOA Transmitters To Be Set Up in 'Arava

TA291314 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Israel is prepared to accept some of the U.S. demands on technical matters related to the establishment of Voice of America transmitters in the 'Arava area, but it will insist on upholding its economic and other interests. This was decided today in a ministerial consultation held at the Prime Minister's Office attended by the prime minister, the foreign minister, the finance minister, the communications minister, and defense establishment officials.

Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that contacts between the Israeli and U.S. teams on this issue will resume within a few days, and it seems that the negotiations will be concluded within approximately 2 months.

Details of Findings on Shin Bet Affair Published

TA291935 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Attorney General Yosef Harish officially announced this evening that he does not intend to bring any of the people involved in the Shin Bet affair to trial. In his decision, Attorney General Harish notes that the investigation material does not provide corroborating evidence about the involvement of the political level in initiating and directing the disruption of the investigation into the No 300 bus affair and the legal proceedings.

The report drawn up by a Justice Ministry investigative team, the gist of which was reported on the Voice of Israel last week, was published in full this evening, with the exception of four secret appendixes. Our legal affairs correspondent Gil'ad Sher reports:

It is best to start from the end, from the epilogue concluding the investigation report, which expresses the hope that the bodies in charge of the Shin Bet's activities will draw the administrative and moral conclusions from the report in order to uproot deviations from the law. While taking its special security needs into consideration, Israeli law absolutely forbids the killing of prisoners, and an order to disrupt legal proceedings is obviously illegal. Even that area of security activities known as the gray area, the jurists emphasize, must be regulated and controlled by the law. This case cannot be included in the category of special security needs and to argue as much is merely wrong and misleading.

Following this epilogue, we go back to the beginning. The legal opinion signed by Yehudit Karp, 'Edna Arbel, and Yitzhaq Eliasoff begins with a description of what has come to be known as the Shin Bet affair: the killing of the terrorists on the night of 12 April 1984 and all the subsequent developments, the appeals to the High Court of Justice, the pardons granted to the Shin Bet operatives, the Zore'a and Blattman commissions, and the disciplinary measures meted out in the Army and Shin Bet.

Let us start with the incident itself, the killing of the two terrorists. The order was issued by the director of the Shin Bet, Avraham Shalom, who gave two reasons for it, the first being that the terrorists' action justified the order. The Justice Ministry team totally rejects this and rules that given the circumstances of the incident the Shin Bet director's order should not have been issued and is totally wrong. The second reason was the authorization the Shin Bet director claims to have received from the political level. There is no argument over the fact that the Shin Bet director did not receive such an order from the prime minister on the night of the incident; according to Shalom, the authorization for the order was based on a conversation he held with the prime minister in November 1983. In his testimony, Mr Shamir confirmed that such a conversation was held. In any event, since the director of the Shin Bet has been pardoned, his criminal responsibility regarding the order to kill the terrorists taken prisoner is not a subject for discussion.

As for the responsibility of the political level in the death of the terrorists, Prime Minister Mr Shamir bears no responsibility whatsoever. He said as much in his testimony: Nobody asked me what was to be done with the terrorists, and therefore I could not have given an order to kill them.

As for the responsibility for disrupting legal proceedings, the jurists say: The explanations by the director of the Shin Bet make one wonder about his version of the matter. According to the evidence, the cover-up actions were carried out at the order and with the participation of the Shin Bet director, as well as other Shin Bet operatives. Mr Shamir's version on this point, that he did not know about the cover-up actions, is corroborated by other testimony — by Peres, Arens, Meridor, and attorney Ram Kaspi. The version of the Shin Bet director about the prime minister's backing for the disruption of legal proceedings is not corroborated by any other evidence.

Summing up, the jurists state that in view of the above, it cannot be ruled that Prime Minister Shamir knew about the order to kill the terrorists and the action taken to disrupt legal proceedings and conceal facts from the various commissions. Consequently, his responsibility for the disrupting actions cannot be determined.

So much for the report. Let us proceed to those points, which emerge from an initial perusal of the report, that give us food for thought.

First, the investigation confirms that the testimony of the men who exposed the affair — the three senior Shin Bet officials — was truthful and that the argument of former Attorney General Yitzhaq Zamir was fully verified, both by the collected evidence and by the pardons granted to the Shin Bet operatives.

Second — and here I am quoting from the report — it should be pointed out that in a conversation the Shin Bet director held with R. on the Sunday following the incident, he spoke about the backing of the political level without elaborating on the nature of this backing.

Third, the Justice Ministry team does not determine exactly what directive or instruction was given by the prime minister in his conversation with the director of the Shin Bet in November 1983, a conversation that dealt with the killing of terrorists in certain cases. The content of this conversation is not elucidated in the report.

Moreover, the team stated that in view of the public demand to investigate the cause of the terrorists' death, the Shin Bet director did whatever he could to prevent an investigation, particularly by holding contacts with the prime minister in a bid to persuade him that the issue should not be looked into.

Another point: The team did not look per se into the serious claim made by Yosi Ginossar [not further identified], who said the denial and concealment of facts from the Zore'a Commission had not been a deviation from the norms, or in other words that there had been similar cases in the past.

We continue with a laconic statement from the report: The investigation did not fully exhaust the issue of the disruption of legal proceedings.

Here are some more details about Yitzhaq Shamir's testimony on the report he received close to the time of the incident, and I quote: On Sunday morning after the incident, I apparently met with Avraham Shalom who told me about the hijacking of the bus and the chaos surrounding the incident. Mr Shamir emphasized that until the end of his tenure he did not deal with this issue, he showed no interest in it, and he did not ask the Shin Bet director about it. According to Mr Shamir, the entire issue came up in October 1985, when Re'uven Hazaq and his friends called on Mr Peres.

The team did not look into Mr Shamir's attitude and reactions, according to which the entire issue of the hijacked bus would be better off closed than exposed.

Peres Accepts Report

TA300855 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0830 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Here is a first reaction by Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to the Harish report: Shim'on Peres says he accepts the conclusions of the report and does not feel that he has been hurt by them. He sees the Shin Bet affair as over. Our correspondent Yinon Shenkar spoke with Mr Peres in the Diplomat Hotel in Jerusalem a short time ago:

[Begin recording] [Shenkar] From what has been published, it appears that actually you are the only one who may have been hurt by the Harish report, because you supported Avraham Shalom all along.

[Peres] I accept the conclusions. I was not hurt in any way. I dealt with the issue after it had come to legal proceedings three times. I am not a legal proceeding. [as heard]

[Shenkar] It has nevertheless been found that the political echelon...

[Peres — interrupting] Nothing has been found and nothing should be invented. As for the political echelon, at least as far as I am concerned: I was not involved in the affair; I acted innocently, according to my conscience, and I have no need to defend myself or explain anything.

[Shenkar] Is the affair over as far as you are concerned?

[Peres] I think so. [end recording]

Shamir, Rabin Comment

TA291726 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir believes that the report on the Shin Bet affair signifies the end of the matter and that now the Shin Bet should be allowed to return to handling its business with the confidentiality it requires. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is presently perusing the report, but in any event believes that the Shin Bet affair is not a matter for partisan polemics.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that the attorney general's decision is the final word in the affair, and it should no longer be dealt with. He stressed that no objection should be raised to the report being publicized. Our correspondent Gabi Zohar reports that during a tour of Bet She'an, Minister Rabin said that cooperation between the IDF and Shin Bet had not been harmed as a result of the affair.

Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev has said that if a vote were taken in the government now, he would again support the establishment of a judicial commission of inquiry. However, there is no chance of the government changing its opinion, and it should be considered final. Minister Bar-Lev told our correspondent Shlomo Raz that the police investigation did not deal with

the performance of the prime minister and Shin Bet chief, but rather with criminal aspects only.

Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that the Alignment leaders believe that the announcement of the investigation's findings marks the end of the affair. Minister Moshe Shahal also does not demand that the affair be further investigated. He has congratulated the prime minister and his aides in that the report supports their versions.

Future Responsibility Shared

TA301120 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 30 Dec 86 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] A committee of three ministers headed by the prime minister will be responsible for the Shin Bet in the future. To date, the ministerial responsibility for the Shin Bet lay with the prime minister alone. In the framework of steps taken to increase supervision over the Shin Bet, it has been decided that the senior committee will include the prime minister, foreign minister, and defense minister.

A senior government source told *Hadashot* yesterday that closer supervision is essential following the disclosures on what happened in the senior echelon of the organization. "Following the publication of the report into the No 300 bus affair, we cannot accept the sort of relations which have existed to date between the Shin Bet chiefs and the political echelon."

The appointment of the ministerial committee of Shamir, Peres, and Rabin is based on the recommendation of a team of experts headed by former Intelligence Chief Major General (Reserve) Aharon Yariv. Yariv recommended that more people be made responsible for the Shin Bet.

Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres have decided not to react to the Shin Bet report and advised their associates not to exacerbate the political debate.

Hadashot has learned that all of the senior Shin Bet officials who were involved in the No 300 bus affair resigned from the service at the insistence of the new Shin Bet chief. Among those who resigned is the Shin Bet man who appealed to the High Court of Justice against Avraham Shalom and demanded reinstatement.

Press on Investigation

TA291111 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 29 Dec 86

[From the review of midday press editorials]

[Text] *Hadashot* says it is difficult to accept the attorney general's conclusions as the final word on the investigation of the Shin Bet affair and as removing all doubts from all aspects of the affair. The paper calls for a full investigation of the relationship between the political and military levels.

Yedi'ot Aharonot says that the team that investigated the affair has definitely cleared Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres. Everyone in the country can breathe a sigh of relief in view of this finale.

More Press Reaction

TA300740 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 30 Dec 86

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] *Ha'aretz* says that even if the jurists who investigated the Shin Bet affair did not confirm the suspicion regarding Mr Shamir's criminal responsibility, his ministerial responsibility is still valid. The crime was perpetrated by people under his jurisdiction. The political echelon cannot dodge its responsibility. Yitzhaq Shamir is not the only one responsible; Shim'on Peres too has to assume his share. It is he who refused to pass on to the attorney general the complaint of Re'uven Hazaq, Rafi Malka, and Peleg Radai, thereby attempting to prevent a criminal investigation and managing to delay it for several months. Not only Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres share the public responsibility; all the Inner Cabinet members share the ministerial responsibility. They agreed to pardon the four senior Shin Bet officials and, indirectly, the seven other Shin Bet members as well. It should be recalled that the president made the pardon of the four senior officials conditional upon the Inner Cabinet's approval.

Hamodi'a writes that the lengthly involvement with the Shin Bet affair was not the result of lofty motives. Those who sharply attacked Shamir did not set out to avenge the death of the two terrorists. Had it been another prime minister, they would undoubtedly have been more cautious with their remarks. All these people were motivated by other considerations that had nothing to do with the death of the two murderers, to whom can be applied the saying: He who comes to kill you, kill him first. The terrorists should know that their hijack attempts will not end in negotiations. The conclusion of the affair should be cause for reflection by those who distracted attention from the country's vital concerns. It would have been preferable for the team of jurists to solve crimes that weigh upon us and for the political team to deal with social, economic, and security problems that are more important to the nation.

Davar says that now it is clear that at best Shamir did not know what a prime minister should have known; in any event, it is reasonable for us to expect an Israeli prime minister to be more alert. But once the government decided to launch a police investigation instead of establishing a commission of inquiry, there is no more room for governmental action on this issue. The political echelon will be judged by the public, whereas jurists and journalists will continue to debate the issue. It seems, however, that both Shamir and Peres owe an apology to Re'uven Hazaq, Peleg Radai, and Rafi Malka, and the Shin Bet — which lost most of its senior level — now needs quiet for healing itself and continuing to work.

The Jerusalem Post writes that the jurists' report, taken as a whole, is a vigorous and explicit reassertion of the doctrine of

supreme court Judge Baraq to the effect that there is no security without law, and of former Attorney General Zamir's insistence on due investigation of the Shin Bet affair. This is the only attitude befitting the State of Israel. The report is far less an exculpation than an indictment of Mr Shamir's grossly irresponsible leadership of the Shin Bet. Jurists cannot very well instruct politicians in their national duty. But the implication of the report is plain enough: The Shin Bet affair has not come to an end.

Cabinet Briefed on Haniyah's Alleged Fatah Role

TA291130 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
29 Dec 86 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Excerpt] *Al-Sha'b* editor Akram Haniyah, who was expelled from Israel to Algeria via Switzerland yesterday, was one of the most senior Fatah commanders in the territories and maintains close ties with Khalil al-Wazir, the head of the PLO military branch who is known by his codename Abu Jihad. This was disclosed by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin who briefed the Cabinet yesterday on the decision to expel Haniyah.

It has been learned that Fatah leaders intend to greet him when he arrives in Algeria.

In the framework of his secret activity within Fatah, Haniyah tried to expand coordination with the other Palestinian organizations and transferred funds received from the Fatah command in Jordan to various terrorist elements in the West Bank. He was, among other things, connected with some squad which committed acts of murder. [passage omitted]

Chief of Staff Levi on Military Dangers, Budget

TA281650 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1405 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi by Yitzhaq Golan, Ze'ev Schiff, and Shmu'el Tal — live in the studio]

[Excerpts] [Golan] Good evening to you and happy Hanukkah. Following the peace treaty with Egypt and the de facto peace with Jordan, would it be correct to say that the danger of war on the southern and eastern fronts has been eliminated for the foreseeable future at least?

[Levi] As we define it, a war against us is initiated by whoever wants a war. It is true that since 1977 Egypt has left the circle of war. I would not compare the situation of Egypt with that of Jordan though. As you described it we have a de facto situation with Jordan which is convenient today but cannot be put in the same category as a state of peace which is what we have with Egypt.

Since I assume you will get to the question of the budget, I would at this stage like to say that a budget should serve an army which has to cope with the future, with future threats, and not taking only the past threats into consideration.

[Schiff] Mr Golan asked a question about two important components of the fronts around us. I would like you then to address yourself to the recent past: peace with Egypt; de facto calm with Jordan; the Iraqis are outside the circle of war, not because they love us but because they are very busy. How has this affected the IDF in recent years? Have you adapted yourselves to this or has the budget increased, if you want to connect this point to that of the budget?

[Levi] If I did not want to do so you would have done so. I would like to add to the list of convenient conditions the fact that we have had quiet with Syria, except for the 1982 war, since 1974; the Syrian border is quiet, and not surprisingly, but theoretically paradoxically, there have been almost no terrorist acts launched from there. We have to be prepared for the possibility of war. These preparations cannot be made overnight. Therefore if a threat exists, and the threat is indeed from the Syrian side today — both from the point of view of the close distance involved and the possibility of it materializing — although we do also have a potential enemy in Iraq, for example. The Army must be prepared for this, too. Jordan has been a party to most wars in one way or another, and can, whether under the present circumstances or as a result of possible changes in the situation, take part in a future war. There are transporting countries as well [those which aid with either manpower or equipment or both]. In our calculation or assessment of threats we have surely left Egypt out due to the state of peace between us. However, we may not feel comfortable about this, but we should recognize the fact that even though we left Egypt out, Syria on its own, and surely Syria together with Jordan, have more forces and more advanced weapons than the theoretic coalition of these three countries had in 1977.

[Tal] We are talking about the quantitative aspect here. It is clear today that the IDF will have great difficulty in growing in size and competing with the size of the Arab armies. The Army is expected to be compensated for this with quality. Do you believe that with a reduced defense budget, with a budget which will probably decrease even further, such a compensation is still possible?

[Levi] Quality? Quality exists, today too, and is our only condition, in fact, for overcoming enemies in the future, as well. This condition must be improved, not maintained; namely, if we leave this condition unchanged we will not be left with the kind of quality which will absolutely and almost automatically lead us to victories over our enemies. Progress continues, after all. Progress is made with regard to weapons systems, organization, and cooperation, and we need to offset this progress and exceed it by increasing our total force, our overall power. It is pointless to refer to history now, but we have never had the concept whereby we would decide possible wars with quantity only. Therefore the point of quality is relevant. One should remember a fact which may not be too easy to think of perhaps but still: This quality should be financed and maintained both through the components of the weapon systems and through the human factor. Quality is thus kept and allows us to overcome a great deal of assymetries which exist between us and the enemies. However, one should foster this quality for the future too, not only remember its past.

[Golan] Still, Gen. Levi, this coalition which you have just mentioned does not pose a threat to Israel today. Egypt is outside this coalition, as was proven in the Lebanese war. Even Jordan was outside the coalition then. As far as I know, relying on recent reports, since it signed a peace treaty with us Egypt has decreased its defense budget, while Jordan has plans for investing money in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, 5-year plans. So, when we are not faced with the danger of such a military alliance, and when the Arab world is internally torn and split, cannot the State of Israel still face up to this challenge of reducing the budget?

[Levi] First, it can; second, it does do so; third, I have never said that the IDF cannot carry out its tasks and missions today. I would only like to remind everyone that an army should be based on long-term plans. We today are continuing to enjoy the fruits of plans in which investment was made a few years ago. Those plans have yielded for us the fruits of development, of the purchase of advanced systems. It is those plans which enable us to say that we do not have a threat we cannot face today.

[Levi — continued] However, if we want what I am saying now to be true in 1989, 1990, 1991, and so on, we will suddenly find that we are helpless if we do not invest today. It is impossible to effect immediate repairs in such a complex system, just as it is impossible to effect a sudden halt, it is likewise impossible to take off without the trial run, and this trial run should be carried out with engines and increased power. Therefore, when we talk of the 1987 defense budget, my claim is that we should raise it, not only refrain from reducing it compared with 1986, not for day-to-day needs, not so it will be easier for us to do things in 1987 than in 1986, but in order to invest in that sphere which will allow the continuation of takeoff, as I just described it, in future years as well.

[Schiff] What will happen if you do not receive what you and the General Staff, with the backing of the defense minister, are asking for? What will happen if a cut is effected in the defense budget instead? Can you tell us briefly what may happen?

[Levi] Let us meet in another week. Not only I but also the defense minister presented this to the Cabinet.

[Schiff] Let the public hear this out too, please.

[Levi] I think that some matters should be presented before the decisionmakers involved. I do not really approve of holding discussions over the media rather than at the appropriate bodies. Here too I have said what could be affected as a result of a defense budget cut. This could influence the future. I do not think that one can build a quality army, with such an excellent present and with such a glorious past, when the future of this army is in jeopardy. This jeopardy should be prevented through investments, among other things. [passage omitted]

[Schiff] As for the Lavi project, you in fact accept the definition of the defense minister whereby the Lavi project is a national project, is necessary for economic and technological reasons. You are the chief of staff, after all. Why then should the IDF shoulder this project with its budget? Hence, are you going to tell the government that this issue is important from the national point of view but that you cannot shoulder it in the framework of the IDF budget?

[Levi] I have said this before and let me repeat: From the IDF point of view, both when the project was born and surely today when the size of the budget has significantly changed, it is a possible answer for an operational need but too expensive an answer within the proportions we are facing. Still, I do not want to be left with a declaration only, since I do not want to prepare a plan which assumes that this position of mine will be accepted, that there is no economy, no workers, no engineers and no technological infrastructure to be taken into account, that I do not care for any of this, so to speak — this would have boomeranged on me — since I do not like to throw things out when I know that a seemingly realistic response for them cannot be made [sentence as heard]. This could create a situation where reference would be to a shaky plan. In may opinion, a shaky plan is worse than a busted one. [passage omitted]

[Schiff] It has been published recently that the Syrians have equipped their missiles with gas. What can you say on this matter, not only to the Israeli public but also to the Syrians who are not the only ones who handle these unconventional weapons?

[Levi] The Syrians have chemical weapons. I am saying this to all who listen. Theoretically, chemical weapons are terrible. The fact that they were used in the Iran-Iraq war makes it sound as if these weapons can be used, that they should be viewed as regular or conventional weapons. I think that the Syrians know the difference between our ability to react to or prevent the use of such weapons and the ability of Iran to do so. They are fully aware of this. Therefore, I would not draw an analogy and say that since this kind of weapon was used there it will be used here too. On the other hand, we are not relying on this only, we are not relying on the reasoning of the Syrians, so we are preparing the Army not only to survive under the conditions of a chemical war but also to continue to fight under such conditions. We also take care of the necessary preparations in the civilian sector which may become a target for weapons in general, including chemical ones. [passage omitted]

Peres Against Fund for Territories in Budget

TA281609 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres demands that a $40 million budget be left in the hands of the Agriculture Ministry. The money is registered in the Ministry's books but in fact is used by the Jewish Agency Settlement Division for investments beyond the green line. Mr Peres said this today in a discussion in the Economic Cabinet on the cut in the Agriculture Ministry's budget.

Our economic affairs correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports that Mr Peres raised this demand after an angry argument developed between the agriculture and finance ministers. There were also angry exchanges between the finance and health ministers, and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir had to intervene in order to calm tempers.

West Bank Family Reunion Requests Approved

TA272024 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] In preparation for the New Year the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria has approved 265 requests for family reunion submitted by residents in the territories. This includes 480 persons.

Requests by a total of about 1,000 people seeking to reunite with their family members in the region were approved in 1986. Our correspondent Arye Gus says this number is double that of 1985 and indicates a change in the policy of the Civilian Administration.

AL-QUDS Criticizes U.S. Stance on Palestinians

TA241432 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
23 Dec pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Murphy...Again!"]

[Text] News agencies have reported that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy will visit this region to explore the possibility of implementing autonomy in the occupied territories.

Anyone following the U.S. policy in the Middle East will not be astonished by these reports; for the U.S. stances toward the Arab-Israeli conflict have not changed despite all attempts by the Arab side to push the peace process forward, starting with the Fes summit resolutions, continuing with the signing of the Amman Agreement, and ending with the call to convene the preparatory conference for peace.

The United States rejected the Fes summit resolution and the clauses of the Amman Agreement, and linked its acceptance of the principle of the convocation of an international peace conference on the Middle East to impossible conditions represented by banishing the PLO from the political arena and the creation of an alternative Palestinian leadership which would deal with the Palestinian problem from the civil rights perspective that constitutes the cornerstone for implementing the autonomy stipulated in the Camp David Agreement related to the occupied territories.

However, Israel, despite rejection of autonomy by the Palestinian people, did not accept even the U.S.-Egyptian viewpoint, which called for implementing autonomy both for the land and the people, and insisted on the need to implement it unilaterally in connection with the people and not the land, which Israel considers an indivisible part of the State of Israel.

We realized a long time ago that the U.S.-Israeli positions urging that the peace process be pushed forward, mean to both countries that the Arab side will accept what Israel wants, that is: the principle of the division of authority, by separating the people from the land and separating self-administration from security control, and other such proposals to change the real substance of the conflict.

The Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied land have repeatedly announced their sincere and definite desire to achieve a comprehensive, durable, and just peace that would ensure their legitimate national rights, foremost of which is their right to self-determination.

We do not know how the desired peace can be achieved as long as the United States and Israel insist on rejecting the principle of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and their right to choose their representatives. For the United States and Israel want to determine the fate of the Palestinian people and choose their leadership even before starting discussions on holding negotiations, and on their form and content.

It appears that the decisionmakers in the United States insist on not learning lessons or drawing conclusions from previous bitter experiences.

ALGERIA

President Bendjedid Receives Libya's Mansur

LD241726 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Excerpt] President Chadli Bendjedid, President of the Republic and the FLN secretary-general, received today Mr Kamil Hasan Mansur, secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, who is currently on an official trip to Algeria. [passage omitted]

Messaadia Receives Delegation

LD241642 Algiers APS in Arabic
1510 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Algiers, 24 Dec (APS) — Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the FLN Politburo and official in charge of the Central Committee's Permanent Secretariat, received at noon today at the Party Central Office a Libyan delegation, led by secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison Kamil Hasan al-Mansur, which is paying an official visit to our country. A review of historical ties and the good bilateral relations between the two brotherly peoples and countries was made during the meeting.

The two sides stressed the importance of continuing contacts to finding means of further strengthening the relations and extending the scope of cooperation. Current international issues, led by common destiny issues, were also the focus of the talks at the meeting.

Ibrahimi Meets Mansur

LD242222 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] We point out that Algerian-Libyan political talks took place today at the Ministry of Foreign Affair under the chairmanship of Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs; and Kamil Hasan al-Mansur, secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison at the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Participating in these talks were brothers Ismail Hamdani and Abdelkader Hajar, members of the Central Committee and secretary general of the Foreign Ministry and Algerian ambassador to Tripoli respectively; cadres of the Foreign Ministry; and the members of the Libyan delegation. During these talks, the two ministers reviewed the Algerian-Libyan relations and the horizons of their development, and they extensively exchanged views about and analyzed the situation in the Arab Maghreb and Arab east and the (?region's) political issues in general.

Delegation Departs 25 Dec

LD252111 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Kamil Hasan Mansur, secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, left Algiers this evening, concluding a visit to Algeria. He was received by President Chadli Bendjedid and held talks with a number of Algerian officials on bilateral relations and ways of strengthening them, in addition to regional and international issues of interest to both countries.

In a statement he made in the VIP lounge at the Boumedienne international airport, the Libyan official said that his visit to Algeria was a link in the chain of consultations between the two fraternal countries. He added: I had the honor of meeting with President Chadli Bendjedid. I also held talks with Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia and with my colleague and brother Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi on international, regional, and Arab issues of interest to both countries, as well as matters related to bilateral relations.

On the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah position on the camps war in Lebanon, he said that the Libyan leadership has made its position quite clear on this matter in the official statements made by Libyan officials.

The Libyan official was seen off at the Houari Boumedienne International Airport by Political Bureau member and Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the Algerian ambassador to Tripoli, and the secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in Algiers.

Bendjedid Presides Over Central Committee Session

LD281630 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Excerpt] President of the Republic and Secretary General of the FLN Chadli Bendjedid, this morning, at the palace of Nations patronized the official opening of the proceedings of the 17th session of the FLN Central Committee which will last 2 days.

At the beginning of the proceedings the session's bureau, comprised of Brothers Lamin Bouroual, Abdelkader Hijar, Abdelkarim al-Souis, and Sulayman Mohamed Bouali, members of the Central Committee, endorsed the agenda of the first day of the proceedings. The agenda includes the submission of a number of reports on the party's activities and the Supreme Council of the National Language, health, educational organization, building, housing [words indistinct] After hearing these reports, the current session of the Central Committee will begin a general debate this afternoon before committees are set up. [passage omitted]

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Cables Egyptian Opposition Parties

LD251825 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1330 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has sent a cable to the Egyptian opposition parties in reply to the cable they had sent him appealing to him to intervene to stop the annihilation of the Palestinian existence in Lebanon at the hands of the Shi'ite Ya's gangs. The following is the text of the cable:

I have received your cable. The Great Jamahiriyah has exerted

and continues to exert all efforts it can to halt the shedding of Palestinian blood. The presence of Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud in the area for some time proves our position.

Your parties' decision to side with the Palestinian camps in this current state of emergency is a positive measure. I wish it could extend to the top of the Egyptian regime, who, by recognizing the enemy and normalizing relations with him, opening the Suez Canal, and reassuring the enemy's southern borders, has provided the enemy with a historic opportunity to devote himself to settling accounts with the northern front, of which the current attacks on the Palestinian camps are only a part.

You are fully aware of the story of the man who, upon being asked where was his ear, moved his right hand behind his head and pointed to his left ear. This is a funny quip. But the sad quip is what you yourselves are doing now by feigning to wail for the Palestinian people at a time when Egypt is totally immersed in high treason against this people and against the Arab nation.

If you are true and serious in your attitude toward the Palestinians, then you would do better to take Egypt out of Stable David and to fight on their side against the common Israeli enemy.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Telegram From Sankara

LD291523 Tripoli JANA in English
1423 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Tripoli, Al Kanoun 29, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The leader of the revolution has received a congratulatory telegram on the new year from Mr. Thomas Sankara, the chairman of the national council of Jamahiriyah of Burkina Faso. It reads:

Dear Brother,

On the occasion of the new year, the entire people of Burkina together with its National Revolutionary Council, its revolutionary government and myself, we send our best wishes to yourself and your country, wishing you happiness. We entreat God to make peace and satisfaction prevail in this new year to promote the friendly and solidarity relations between the masses of our peoples who are aware of their historic task vis-a-vis all oppressed worldwide.

I express my deep-rooted hope to see the line of the two revolutions getting stronger against world imperialist order in a bid for the ultimate deliverance of the peoples achieving noble life.

Please accept our most brotherly regards.

USSR Building Radio, TV Station in Awbari Region

NC291429 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1356 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA) — MENA has learned that the USSR is currently constructing and supplying equipment for a long-range radio and television transmission station [mahattat irsal] in the Awbari region north of Sabha in Libya. It is planned that transmission from this station will eventually reach eastward to the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, westward to the Atlantic Ocean, and southward to the equator. This is being done in response to the U.S. construction of a VOA transmitting station in the Negev in Israel, which is directed basically at the Soviet Union and the countries of Western Asia.

SUDAN

DUP Accuses Ruling Party of Rigging Elections

JN241143 Khartoum SUNA in English
1045 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 24 (SUNA) — The Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] which is forming the current goverment with the Al-Ummah Party of Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has accused the Al-Ummah Party of rigging the elections held recently in Omdurman constituency no 50, the daily *Al-Sudani* issued here today reported. At a political rally held here yesterday, Minister of Interior Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn who is also the deputy secretary general of the DUP, reaffirmed that the Party has decided to form committees to follow up the corruption and to combat it. Chairman of the DUP Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirighani and members of the Party politburo have attended the political gathering.

The supporters of the DUP have plainly accused the Al-Ummah party of rigging the poll and called for the disbanding of the coalition government.

It is to be recalled that Al-Ummah Party candidate 'Abd al-Rahman 'Abdallah Nagdallah won the constituency by 8670 votes while the DUP candidate got 6405 votes.

The poll in the said constituency was run again following the death of its former deputy Salah al-Mahdi, brother of Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in a car accident.

Army Chief on Rebellion, Armed Forces

JN291704 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
28 Dec 86 p 18

[Interview with Sudanese Army Chief of Staff 'Abd al-'Azim Siddiq by 'Abd al-Rahman al-Amin in Khartoum — date not given]

[Text] [Al-Amin] On behalf of *Al-Siyasah*, I thank you for this opportunity and hope this interview will be the beginning of a wider discussion concerning military matters of interest to Sudan and its Arab brothers.

[Siddiq] We thank *Al-Siyasah* on this occasion and welcome it in Sudan. I am prepared to answer all of your questions with the utmost clarity and frankness.

[Al-Amin] You returned from southern Sudan a few days ago. Can you tell us about the military situation as you saw it?

[Siddiq] I can say that the military situation in the south in general is extremely good. This applies to the three southern

regions: Equatoria, Bahr al-Ghazal, and Upper Nile. I had the chance to inspect all these regions after assuming my new post as the chief of staff. I visited the Armed Forces' units in Juba, Waw, and Malakal. The main purpose of the visit was to learn about the security situation in general and the conditions of the fighters in the field in addition to the effect of security problems on the people. I can say the situation is reassuring and morale is extremely high. I can also say the outlaws are suffering greatly and the rebellion is dwindling.

[Al-Amin] What are the biggest problems from which John Garang's forces are suffering?

[Siddiq] Currently, the outlaws are suffering from lack of ammunition, food, and supplies. The cause for this is that the distance between their forces in the field and their sources of supplies is very great. Moreover, a great number of people are now rejecting their presence in their regions. They refuse to extend to them any assistance, particularly in the Equatoria Region. There are also the harsh living conditions in these areas which make it impossible for people to extend assistance to the outlaws.

[Al-Amin] After the shooting down of the civilian Sudanese plane on 16 Augst and the subsequent threats to shoot down any plane traveling to and from the south, have military air transport lines been affected?

[Siddiq] Militarily, our air transport lines have not been affected at all. Our military air transportation is continuing to all three southern regions. Our fears centered on civilian planes. Some companies responded for a while to the threats of the outlaws and the exaggerated rumors and propaganda by some Western radio stations and media. These media painted a bad picture of the security situation and were unrealistic.

While it is true there were threats, we were able to secure all the main airports in the south, allowing all military and civilian aircraft to land and take off safely. Any position around these airports which might be used to fire a missile, a shell, or a rocket toward these airports was brought under the control of the Sudanese Armed Froces and was completely secured. I can say that the outlaws' ability to hit or shoot down a plane is very low unless fate interferes. Now that the airports are secure, our planes travel to the south daily.

[Al-Amin] You mean military planes?

[Siddiq] Also civilian planes. Today, for example, we sent two planes to Juba. Yesterday, we sent planes to Waw. Some commercial airlines have started trips to the south. One such company is Trans Arabia which has continuous flights transporting foodstuffs and goods. Today, this company sent two commercial aircraft to Juba.

[Al-Amin] From what you have said, can it be concluded that the military flights from military airports are not affected by threats to down them as was mentioned by Colonel Garang's radio?

[Siddiq] This also applies to civilian planes because we are dutybound to secure the airports. As I have said, we have completed such security. Consequently, securing these airports does not only benefit military planes and is dictated by a national need and also by a commitment on our part. This is because the safety of air navigation routes and other routes is an international matter to which we are committed in accordance with known international agreements. The outlaws' ability to use machine guns or rockets to down, confront, or impede the movement of planes has completely been terminated.

[Al-Amin] You have touched on reports by some Western radios and news media and condemned the way in which these media convey their reports. Can you tell us about the siege of some cities which were reported by several international and Western news media recently? How does a military siege take place under the circumstances of the ongoing war?

[Siddiq] It is untrue that there is a Sudanese city under any kind of military siege in southern Sudan. This is an irrefutable fact I say as chief of staff of the Sudanese Army. All cities are open. The day before yesterday, a train arrived in the town of Malwal from the town of Babanusah, moved from Malwal to the town of Uwayl, and arrived finally inthe town of Waw safely.

Moreover, a few weeks ago we dispatched a shipment of tractors from Khartoum, all of which arrived in Malakal by means of steamers which were carrying food and relief aid and numerous other things. As for a siege, it is theoretically a known military operation and has specific procedures and arrangements which vary according to the target meant to be besieged.

[Al-Amin] Talking about the war in the south, we would like to have an idea about the difficulties that a regular army faces in fighting a guerrilla warfare?

[Siddiq] The difficulty in guerrilla warfare lies in its being spread over a wide area. This means this war can fragment the efforts of a regular army. Another thing is that guerrillas in southern Sudan seek help from the local population and hide among them, benefiting from their assistance. A third fact is that they are fast-moving. We also suffer from a similarity in looks and languages and we cannot distinguish one person from another. Guerrilla fighters can create great confusion in a short time even if they are few in number. For example, an outlaw with a gun can hold at bay a column, as in the case of the steamer (hagligah).

[Al-Amin] In military science, they say that guerrilla warfare is not a very difficult form of war, but it is impossible to realize victory with it. Is this true?

[Siddiq] I do not agree and I do not believe in the impossible. There are many solution for guerrilla warfare. We waged such a war for 17 years and we came out of it with a political solution; not a victory, not a defeat. The current war can be solved politically or militarily or both.

[Al-Amin] You have spoken about the first war in the south from 1955-1972 which ended in a political solution. Do you believe that the southern war which has been raging since May 1983 can be solved militarily?

[Al-Amin] I would like to assert that the military solution is not the best solution for such wars. Neither is the political solution

the only one. However, despite our belief that the military solution is not the only one, we will be ready for it if it is imposed on us. It is possible.

[Al-Amin] At one of his news conferences, the prime minister and defense minister stated that Ethiopia supports John Garang's movement. My question to you is the following: Can you tell us about some of the military information, other than that on weapons, which you get from those you arrest from Garang's movement and which constitutes material evidence of this support which was mentioned by the prime minister and defense minister?

[Siddiq] It is well known that Ethiopia does not produce weapons. The entire world knows from where Ethiopia obtains its weapons, the same weapons which are in the hands of the outlaws. We know that Ethiopia gives refuge to the outlaws, allows them to move on its territory, and prepares for them the bases from which they operate. All these factors are part of what we may call assistance.

[Al-Admin] Let me put the question in another form. *The Washington Post* recently published a report saying that Ethiopia transports John Garang's men by air into Sudan. Can you confirm this report?

[Siddiq] This is possible. As you know, Sudan is large and complete control of its airspace is virtually impossible, particularly in the forest regions, the Equatorial regions, and the rich savanna regions. Therefore, landing of planes is possible.

[Al-Amin] Do I understand from your reply that this air transportation is possible but you lack any evidence of it?

[Siddiq] Yes, we have no evidence of Ethiopian planes transporting Garang's men, but all indications now show that Ethiopia is the only party which at present is assisting the outlaws and providing them with all they need.

[Al-Amin] Permit me to ask you this question which is substantiated by daily reports which I have read in the Sudanese papers for the past 2 weeks, all of which confirm that John Garang has either been wounded or killed. If these reports prove to be true, do you expect any change in the course of action of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, especially since the said reports also say that divisions have taken place in the Movement and that Carabino Kuanyin, John Garang's deputy, has assumed the post of commander in chief?

[Siddiq] I personally do not expect any major changes because the issue is not one dealing with John Garang. The issue is linked to various world trends and interests. In case Garang is killed there will be other men like Garang who are ready to follow in his footsteps.

[Al-Amin] Colonel John Garang and Lieutenant Colonel Carabino Kuanyin were officers in the Sudanese Army. What do you know about Carabino Kuanyin?

[Siddiq] I know him personally. I know him better than John Garang. I know him from when I was the commander of the 13th Division in the Upper Nile and he was under my command as a company commander in that region. From what I know about him, I think he is not qualified to be a chief of staff or a commnader in chief of this Movement.

[Al-Amin] Does your assessment of Carabino Kuanyin as his former commander mean he does not measure up to John Garang in terms of military self-discipline or military performance?

[Siddiq] I can say that Carabino Kuanyin from an intellectual point of view is far less educated than John Garang, who is a university graduate and holds a Phd in economics. Carabino Kuanyin has not pursued the studies which qualify him to become a leader.

[Al-Amin] What about tactical military aspects?

[Siddiq] He is also weak in these aspects. He also is not an administrator. As I said, he was a company commander and his performance was below average.

[Al-Amin] If reports about John Garang prove to be true or if he is removed from the post of commander in chief and Carabino Kuanyin, whom you know so well, assumes this post can you say that John Garang's Movement will experience further divisions in the future?

[Siddiq] It seems that command post appointments are carried out in accordance with the criterion of service in the Movement. I know most of the officers who are now working with John Garang. Before they left the Army I had close relations with them. Carabino Kuanyin is one of them. Another is (William Tut), currently the Movement's chief of staff. There is also (Arok Ton), official in charge of supplies. (Arok Ton) was the officer in charge of communications in the 13th Division. Even John Garang worked with me while he was preparing for his Phd.

[Al-Amin] Can your close ties with the rebels be useful in understanding and maybe solving the problem?

[Siddiq] Certainly. I think personal ties can be a big help in coming to an understanding if the aim is to safeguard Sudan and if internal regional Sudanese claims were treated as such without giving foreign parties a chance to tamper with the country's integrity.

[Al-Amin] Have you ever tried during your meetings and discussions with the political leadership, including the prime minister who is also defense minister, to get things moving by using your friendships, given that the peace talks have been deadlocked since the downing of the passenger plane and because, as you know, a military solution is not an ideal one?

[Siddiq] I have never tried this. I believe politics is for politicians and as a military man politics is no concern of mine.

[Al-Amin] Your answer leads me to ask about an institution in which you are the second in command. What is the role of the Army in the democratic system as you understand it?

[Siddiq] In the democratic system and as defined in the Consti-

tution, the Army protects the country's borders, independence, sovereignty, and security. The Army also protects the Constitution and the democratic system. The Army is in a state of training and preparation to carry out this role. It also participates in social and economic development projects.

[Al-Amin] In Sudan there is a multiparty system and a democratic government. Members of the Armed Forces cast their votes in elections and participate in choosing their representatives in Parliament. How do you reconcile the two situations?

[Siddiq] I would like to point out that the Army in Sudan is a national, completely neutral institution. It has no party trends or loyalties and has no policy except to protect the national soil.

[Al-Amin] Do your laws prevent affiliation with political parties?

[Siddiq] Certainly. Our laws and common interest bans affiliation with parties and organizations to preserve the national character of the Armed Froces.

[Al-Amin] Do the memoers of the Armed Forces vote?

[Siddiq] Yes. This is their constitutional right.

[Al-Amin] In elections, an Armed Forces member chooses a certain party to vote for because he is convinced by this party's programs or political ideology. Don't you see that this constitutional right leads to favoring a certain party?

[Siddiq] This is true but we cannot rob the people — and in this case the Armed Forces — of their constitutional rights. However, in the Armed Forces we do not allow discussions of party problems on any level. The choice in elections may be on party bases. This is left to the person who cast his vote. However, we do not allow declaring allegiance to any political party or sectarian side at all. The nature of the Armed Forces and their duties necessitate this.

[Al-Amin] There are many pieces of evidence to show the ruin and destruction left by the Numayri regime throughout the past16 years in various sectors of Sudanese society, such as the production sector and others. What form has this destruction taken in the Armed Forces?

[Siddiq] I can briefly say that the Armed Forces were greatly affected — adversely, of course — throughout the past years in terms of training, preparation, and arms. I believe this harm is very grave and disturbing.

[Al-Amin] What did you do to remedy these ills?

[Siddiq] God be praised, we have gone a long way in training our Armed Forces and obtaining the necessary equipment. Everything is proceeding well in this regard, God be praised.

Debt Rescheduling Agreement Signed With Japan

JN251128 Khartoum SUNA in English
1035 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum Dec 25 (SUNA) — Sudan and Japan Wednesday signed an agreement for the rescheduling of bilateral trade debts amounting to four billion Japanese yen (about 28 million dollars) in the context of the 4th Paris Club agreement.

The agreement includes the debts concluded before the year 1984 between Japanese exporters and Sudanese importers. The agreement stipulates the repayment of these debts in twenty installments to be paid twice a year as of the first of January 1990 with a grace period of four years.

This is the second agreement signed between Sudan and Japan this year for rescheduling debts within the framework of the third Paris Club agreement.

With the signing of this agreement with Japan, four Paris Club countries have not yet signed agreement with Sudan, they are France, Sweden, the Netherlands and Denmark because these countries insisted on a precondition of reaching an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The total rescheduled debts within the framework of Paris Club countries have now reached 210 million dollars and it may rise to 260 million dollars if the said countries agree to reschedule their debts to Sudan.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Opens Constitution Referendum Congress

EA241829 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] The first meeting of the Constitution Referendum Commission Congress was held in the hall of the Great Palace today. The congress began its work after an opening speech by Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE Central Committee, PMAC chairman and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, in which he approved the meetings agenda and program.

In his speech, the comrade secretary general pointed out that during the current period, we will accomplish feats that will outstrip all the notable results of our struggle that have been allotted a place of honor in our history, because it is a period in which we will create suitable conditions for the working people of ethiopia to assume direct control of power over the next few months and in which the establishment of the republic will be realized.

The comrade secretary general said that as has been clearly stipulated in the decree formulated by the Referendum Commission, the (?new) constitution will be approved and confirmed as the legal guide for the people of Ethiopia once over 50 percent of the voters approve the document. He said that from now on, all the remaining tasks for the establishment of the republic will be based on the results of the peoples' prime task remaining for the establishment of the republic is the establishment of the National Assembly whose members will be elected directly by the people and which will be a major organ of state power. He said that the positive participation of the people so far has assisted in the development of the content and form of the draft constitution and has been essential to the final shape of the document. He added that the referendum would legalize the document. The comrade secretary general said that the holding of the referendum would also enable the democratic participation of the people to mature to a higher stage.

Continuing the meeting, the congress elected executive committee memebrs of the Constitution Referendum Commission. Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam was elected chairman of the congress.

Comrade Fikre Selassie Wogderes, WPE Central Committee Political Bureau member and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, was elected deputy chairman of the congress. The congress approved the guidelines for holding the referendum on the constitution and the working program of the commission. It also established committees on defense and security, for implementing the referendum, and on education, agitation, propaganda, and control.

During the meeting members of the commission were briefed, with the help of photographs, on the way in which all the country's nationalities will install the historic and initial organ of peoples power by exercising their democratic rights.

WPE Secretary Heads Delegation to PRC, DPRK

LD282220 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] A high-ranking delegation led by Comrade Fisseha Desta, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPE Central Committee, left today to deliver messages from Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam to the leaders of the DPRK and the PRC. In addition to delivering messages from Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE Central Committee, chairman of the PMAC, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, to DPRK President Comrade Kim Il-song and PRC Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang, the delegation will pay working visits to those countries.

The delegation was seen off by Comrade Berhanu Bayeh, member of the WPE Central Committee Political Bureau and foreign minister. The DPRK and PRC ambassadors in Addis Ababa were also present.

Cuban Official Visits Health Institute

EA292133 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Comrade Jorge Risquet Valdes, Politburo member and secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, today inspected the health science institute in Jima town, Kefa region. [passage omitted]

Comrade Risquet presented silver medals to nine Cubans who have completed 2 years' service in revolutionary Ethiopia, an award which was sent from their country. He said that the expansion of health services is one the revolutionary achievements attained through the leadership of Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam. He enumerated the contributions made by Cuban comrades standing alongside the friendly Ethiopian people to strengthen the unity of the two fraternal countries in line with the principles of proletarian internationalism. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Soviet Sports Protocol— A 2-year sports cooperation agreement was signed between revolutionary Ethiopia and the USSR. The agreement was signed during a ceremony held at the Jan-Meda Sports Center by Comrade Tesfaye Shafu, deputy sports and physical training commissioner, and Comrade Vladimir Nosov, Soviet deputy chairman of sports. The agreement signed by the two sports officials provides for exchanges of experience through various contests and aid consisting of sports equipment and facilities. [Text] [*Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 25 Dec 86 EA*]

SOMALIA

Radio Halgan Questions Election Vote Count

EA292149 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] An official statement by the regime said that 5 million people voted for dictator Barre in the so-called elections with which he sought to dazzle the Somali people. It is not surprising that the dictator should say that he was elected president for the next 7 years — this was the expected result. People can elect or reject when they are free to express themselves, but at the moment the Somali people are free neither to express themselves nor to control their own wealth. All are suppressed by dictator Barre at the barrel of the gun, and for that reason the aspirations and wishes of the people can never be the same as those of dictator Barre.

However, when we look at his so-called elections we see surprising things. As we all know, the elections took place in urban settlements in all regions, but not in the countryside. Some 75 percent of pastoralist Somalis live in the countryside and the remaining 25 percent live in towns. From that 25 percent, subtract the 15 percent who did not participate in the so-called elections because they consist of children under the age of 18, sick people in hospitals and homes, prisoners whom the regime regards as opposed to its rule, and old men and women who cannot even walk to the polling stations.

Of the remaining 10 percent, at least 4 percent did not participate because they consist of Somali residents abroad, opposition groups fighting against him and others exiled by the regime. Only6 percent remained to participate in his so-called elections

b y 5

million people. According to the regime, the surprising thing is that if 6 percent is 5 million according to the regime, then the remaining 94 percent, consisting of 75 percent pastoralists, 15 percent children, old people and prisoners, and 4 percent living abroad and opposition groups, the population would number 80 million.

So the Somali population numbers 85 million, 5 million being equivalent to the 6 percent that voted for the regime. This makes no sense, and shows that the regime says whatever it wants to. We were aware that the Somali population was estimated at between 4 and 5 million, but if it has risen, the regime should substantiate that it has reached 85 million. This shows us how weak the regime is, that it is not ashamed to say anything, and that it is trying to console itself.

We, as Somali opposition forces, say that the Somali people should have the right to elect a regime that serves Somali interests, and not one that just dreams.

Rebels Claim Army Base Captured 24 Dec

EA261832 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Units of SNM [Somali National Movement] fighters launched a surprise attack on the 1st Brigade of the 26th Division of the regimes army stationed at Gumburra, 30 km from Hargeisa town in Hargeisa District, the day before yesterday. SNM fighters defeated the soldiers, captured the base at 1730 local time on that day, and inflicted heavy losses in men and material. We will inform you of any details of further losses in the future.

CHAD

Bardai Reports Formation of New GUNT Cabinet

AB291944 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1830 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] It has been expected for several days. Now it is done! The new cabinet of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] has been named. It is composed of 13 members. This is undoubtedly an (?unprecedented) political development because the new government team has come to fill a power vacuum caused by the recent political changes within the GUNT. The list of the new cabinet members was presented in a statement on the occasion by the comrade vice president of the GUNT, Nadjita Yombel Leonard. Let us listen to him:

[Begin Nadjita recording] Chadians, brothers and sisters, comrades-in-arms: On this occasion, it is with a special feeling that I am addressing you this evening, on the eve of the year 1987. The comrade president of the GUNT will have the opportunity to make a statement to all the Chadian forces. As far as I am concerned, I have the high honor to present to you [words indistinct] the new cabinet of the GUNT. I want to emphasize first of all that the formation of a new cabinet to lead the revolutionary march of the struggling Chadian people is the positive result of consultations embarked upon at all levels with the various elements of our large struggling front, within and outside the country. Beyond those called upon to take charge of the state affairs, it is the entire hope of a (?martyr) people that is being reborn. The naming of the cabinet also demonstrates our deep conviction to attain [words indistinct] the achievements of our people's major (?goals) which are the strengthening of its unity and its forthcoming liberation from the yoke of imperialism and reaction. Therefore, dear comrades, here is the list of the new GUNT cabinet.

Decree No 1 of 12/86 appointing members of the GUNT. The GUNT president, head of state, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, in accordance with the Lagos Accords of (?21) August 1979, in accordance with the Cotonou II agreement of 15 November 1986, in accordance with the resolution of 12 November on the dismissal of GUNT President Goukouni Oueddei, the resolution of 15 November 1986 on the appointment by consensus of the GUNT president and vice president, decrees:

Article 1. The following comrades have been appointed members of the GUNT:

President.....Acheikh Ibn Oumar Taib
Vice President.....Major Nadjita Yombel Leonard
Minister of National Defense, Veterans Affairs, and War Victims.....(Mahamat Oukonie Guet)
Minister of Interior and Security.....Moussa Mbodou Ali
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.....Dr (Bashio Gamal)
Minister of Justice and Labor.....Aboubakar Abderahman
Minister of Finance, Economy, and Rural Development.....(Mahamat Adei Abdelkarim)
Minister of Information.....Gatingar Telroh
Minister of National Education and Culture.....(Hissein Ibrahim Tahal)
Minister of Public Health, Social Affairs, and Refugees.....(Adjaro Adam Senoussi)
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation....(Mahamat Salif Ahmat)
Permanent Secretary to the Government.....(Tchemgbela Moro)
Deputy Permanent Secretary to the Government.....(Ibingar Ohelie)

Article 2. A decree will be issued later defining the specific functions of each member of government.

Article 3. The present decree comes into force on the day of its signature, and it will be published wherever the need arises.

Issued in Bardai on 28 December, 1986.

[Signed]: GUNT president and head of state, Acheikh Ibn Oumar. [end recording]

New Libyan Offensive Against Bardai, Zouar

AB291904 Paris AFP in French 1805 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Paris, 29 Dec (AFP) — Libyan troops on Sunday [28 December] evening and Monday morning launched a new offensive against Bardai and Zouar localities in the Tibesti (northern Chad), confirms a communique by Kailan Achmet, principal private secretary to the GUNT president, Goukouni Oueddei.

According to the communique, the Libyan troops, on Sunday evening, lost about "65 people, two DMB tanks, two Toyota vehicles equipped with 105-milimeter cannons, and five Toyota troop-transport vehicles." "The Libyan offensive," the communique adds, "was halted at Zouar" but resumed Monday morning "around Bardai and Zouar with Libyan troops fully engaged in the fighting."

Moreover, the communique deplores "the attitude of some countries which, obviously, through their silence, encourage Al-Qadhdhafi in his undertaking of occupying and massacring civilians."

France Warned on Intervention

AB291632 Paris AFP in French 1534 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Paris, 29 Dec (AFP) — The Revolutionary Democratic Council (CDR), a faction of the GUNT (opposition movement to Hissein Habre) led by Acheikh Ibn Oumar, warned France today against "the risk of deep involvement caused by French intervention in Chad."

The attempts by the French and the Ndjamena governments "to make believe that there are so-called Libyan troops on our coasts," a communique released in Paris said, "is a new maneuver

aimed at deceiving international public opinion." "We draw the attention of French public opinion and the democratic organizations to the serious situation prevailing in Chad and the risks of a deep involvement caused by the French intervention," the communique added. "Such an intervention will help maintain the policy of the gun adhered to by the French Government in Chad for such a long time and will compromise the future relations" between the two countries.

Zouar Captured

PA291944 Paris AFP in English 1831 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Paris, Dec 29 (AFP) — Libyan forces in northern Chad have captured the strategic town of Zouar in the Tibesti Mountains from pro-government troops following two weeks of fighting, reliable sources said here on Monday.

(Chadian authorities in Ndjamena were refusing permission on Monday to foreign journalists to report on the situation in the north of the country.)

The sources said Libyan troops had captured Zouar early Monday from followers of former President Goukouni Oueddei, who was formerly allied to Libya against the government of President Hissein Habre.

Mr Goukouni was arrested by Libyan authorities in Tripoli after he announced in October that he was rallying to Mr. Habre.

The sources said the Goukouni loyalists had withdrawn into the hills surrounding Zouar, which lies on the southern edge of the Tibesti range on a strategic road leading from the Libyan border to the oasis of Faya-Largeau, Libya's main base in the center of northern Chad.

A close aid to Mr Goukouni, Kailan Ahmet, said Monday in Paris that Libyan troops had launched offensives Sunday against both Zouar and Bardai, in the center of the Tibesti range, but had been repulsed. He said fighting was continuing Monday around both towns.

Officials at the Chadian Embassy in Paris refused to either confirm or deny the reported capture of Zouar, which had been one of the main targets of a Libyan offensive launched in the Tibesti region on December 17.

Chadian sources in Paris said the situation of the Goukouni men holed up in Tibesti was "very difficult" because they lacked weapons and ammunition.

Military analysts here said the taking of Zouar was not expected to give the Libyans a decisive edge in the fighting as long as the pro-government forces still controlled the surrounding hills.

The Libyans, who have occupied the northern half of Chad since 1983, mounted three earlier attacks on Zouar on December 19, 22 and 24. The French-backed Chadian Government accused the Libyans of carrying out intense bombing, including the use of napalm and toxic gas shells, during the attacks.

The Goukouni forces in the Tibesti were supplied with arms and ammunition dropped by French planes on December 16. However, France has said it will not get more involved, and has turned down repeated requests for it to send troops to the north.

President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac met to discuss the Chad crisis in Paris on Monday. Defence Minister Andre Giraud was also present.

In a statement broadcast on Chadian radio on Monday, the government accused its allies, and particularly the Organization of African Unity, of failing to react to the atrocities which it says the Libyans have been carrying out in northern Chad.

Ndjamena Accuses Moscow of Backing Libya

AB292138 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Regional conflicts sometimes constitute indirect battle grounds for great powers. While some subtly and cleverly indulge in these regional conflicts through countries at war, others do so overtly. The Soviet Union is, in fact, to be put in the second category of great powers because its attitude in the face of the Chad-Libya conflict is a clear demonstration of its policy.

In this war, the Soviet Union has always closed its eyes on the occupation of a part of the Chadian territory and the massacres and extortions committed by the Libyan Army on our populations. When it speaks of the conflict, it is mainly within the framework of its confrontation with the West. This is why it often accuses France and the United States of fanning the flames of the war. What a vulgar way of settling its own accounts with these two countries! What an awkward policy of defending injustice to the detriment of law and freedom! In its blind will to oppose free countries, Moscow deliberately pretends not to know that France and the United States are supporting a just war and that they are helping a government to safeguard its people's rights and it's state sovereignty.

The Soviet Union overtly supports Libya in its undertaking in Chad, just as it supports the totalitarian regimes, like itself, irrespectful of human rights. Moreover, the similarity between the two allies in the military, political, and even organizational fields is obvious. For example, the Libya news agency, JANA, resembles in its form and substance its Soviet senior sister, TASS. They are all characterized by lies and misinformation. The so-called Islamic Legion uses the same barbaric methods to annihilate the Chadian resistance as the Red Army did in Prague, Budapest, and as it is doing in Afganistan. Many imperatives are behind the Soviet Union's alliance with Libya. We will mention three in particular:

First of all, there is a military-commercial imperative. In fact, the Libyan regime is one of the largest buyers of Soviet arms in the Third World. As such, Tripoli owes the Soviet state tens of billions of dollars. Therefore Libya constitutes an impressive market to preserve and an ally to be handled with care. It is, therefore, quite normal for Moscow to close its eyes on this ally's

crimes, especially since its hands are far from being clean in this field. In the second place, there is a political-strategic imperative behind Moscow's attitude toward the situation in the region. Despite the fact that Libya constitutes an ideal means for the Soviet penetration of Africa from the north — after its failure in Egypt — Chad is found to be an obstacle that should be overcome at all costs to create the vertical Tripoli-Luanda axis. A similar axis already exists — that is Tripoli-Addis Ababa-Aden. According to Moscow, this axis will only be possible with a government under Libya's power in Ndjamena, and all these efforts being made by Moscow to support Tripoli are, in fact, aimed at achieving this objective. Finally, Moscow is waging an unjust war in Afganistan. This is why, of course, it supports Libya which is doing exactly the same thing in Chad.

As can be seen, it is their considerable and common interests that made the leadership in Moscow support at all costs the incoherent acts and crimes of the Libyan regime in Chad.

GABON

French Prime Minister Chirac Arrives for Visit

AB300925 Paris AFP in English 0858 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Franceville, Gabon, Dec 30 (AFP) — French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac arrived here Tuesday to attend the inauguration of the final section of the Trans-Gabon Railway. He was met at the airport by his Gabon counterpart Leon Mebiane.

Mr Chirac was to accompany Gabonese President Omar Bongo and the president of neighboring Congo, Denis Sassou-Nguesso, to the manganese mining town of Moanda, where the official party was to board a special train for the 40 kilometers (25 miles) back to Franceville, the end of the new line.

The inauguration of the line coincides with Mr Bongo's birthday. He was born in Moanda 51 years ago Tuesday.

CAPE VERDE

Japan Grants Aid for Telecommunications, Food

AB211619 Dakar PANA in French 1505 GMT 19 Dec 86

[Text] Dakar, 19 Dec (PANA) — Cape Verde and Japan today in Dakar exchanged notes on two financial grants totalling 510 million yen (aproximately 1.03 billion CFA francs), it was announced in a communique to PANA from the Japanese Embassy in Dakar.

The first Japanese Government grant of 310 million yen (about 629.3 million CFA francs) is meant to support a maritime radio-communications project of the Saint Vincent station in Cape Verde. This "VHF" telegraphic and telephonic transmitting and receiving equipment will enable Cape Verde to ensure the security of its maritime transportation network.

The second grant worth 200 million yen (aproximately 406 million CFA francs) will cover the costs for the purchase and transportation of rice. It is indicated that this aid is in response to the request by the Cape Verdian Government and will contribute to easing the food deficit resulting from the persistent drought in the archipelago.

The financial grants were signed by Mr Jorge Daniel Spencer, the acting charge d'affaires of the Cape Verde Embassy and Mr Aitaka Oshima, the acting charge d'affaires of the Japanese Embassy in Dakar.

It will be recalled that Japan's nonrefundable aid to Cape Verde for the period of June 1979 to December 1986 amounts to 2.537 billion yen (approximately 4.566 billion CFA francs)

GHANA

New Quarterly Political Journal Published

AB291636 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 29 Dec 86

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Among the stories on the front pages of the *Ghanaian Times* and the *People's Daily Graphic* is the launching of a 48-page journal, the CDR [Committee for the Defense of the Revolution] *Eagle Flies*, a quarterly magazine for CDR'S by Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings in Accra yesterday.

GUINEA

Cooperation Agreement With Cuba Signed

AB291018 Paris AFP in French 1730 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Conakry, 28 Dec (AFP) — Guinea and Cuba signed a draft agreement on cooperation and cultural exchange in Conakry on Saturday. The two countires have agreed to strengthen their cooperation in the fields of education, information, and culture, it was learned in the Guinean capital on Sunday. The same source pointed out that cooperation between the two countries is a quarter of a century old; the first basic agreement was signed between the two parties in October 1960.

It will be recalled that Cuba has always helped Guinea in the fields of health, poultry production, road infrastructure, and housing. Several Guineans have also been trained in Cuba.

NIGER

Tighter Airspace, Surveillance Due to Chad War

AB291235 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Brigadier General Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council [SMC] and head of state, this morning received (Claude Sudeste), the French ambassador to Niger and [name indistinct], secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau. During their talks the SMC chairman discussed the current situation in Chad with the two diplomats and reasserted Niger's stand of strict neutrality in the conflict. He also expressed our country's desire to help find a peaceful solution to the conflict for the benefit of the entire Chadian people.

Meanwhile, as some international newspapers have published articles alleging that Niger is involved in the clashes in the Tibesti region, the SMC asserts that no air or land access has been accorded nor will be accorded to any party in the conflict. To this end the necessary arrangements have been made by the Niger Armed Forces to ensure vigilant and constant surveillance of our borders, especially in areas where fighting is likely to take place.

Communique Issued on Kountche's Mauritania Visit

AB250636 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Final communique issued in Nouakchott on 24 December 1986 following Niger President Seyni Kountche's friendly working visit to Mauritania on 23 and 24 December 1986 — communique read by Sani Bako, Niger foreign affairs and cooperation minister]

[Excerpts] At the invitation of His Excellency Colonel Maayouia Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN] and head of state of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, His Excellency Brigadier General Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council [CMS] and head of state of the Republic of Niger, paid a friendly working visit to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania from 23 to 24 December 1986.

His Excellency Brig Gen Seyni Kountche was accompanied by a high-ranking delegation, made up of Douda Diallo, minister of culture and communications; El Hadj Habibou Allele, minister of agriculture; and Sani Bako, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. The Mauritanian delegation was made up of several dignitaries, including Hasni Ould Didi, minister of national education and acting minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Messaoud Ould Boulkheir, minister of rural development;

Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Weddady, minister of culture and information; (Camara Ali Pelajoh), adviser at the Presidency of the CMSN; (Brahim Ould Abdelaziz), adviser at the Presidency of the CMSN; (Ba Alioune Mba), permanent secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; (Mohamed Kapri Ould Segan), permanent secretary at the Ministry of Commerce and Transport; and (Ba Amadou Racmi), ambassador and African director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

During the deliberations, which were held in an atmosphere of friendship and fraternal understanding, the two delegations examined their bilateral relations and exchanged views on the African and international economic and political situations. The two heads of state underlined the excellent nature of their bilateral relations and reaffirmed their determination to consolidate them further by expanding their cooperation in the economic, cultural, and technical fields. To this end, they decided to increase contacts and exchanges at all levels to further strengthen relations between the two countries — relations based on mutual respect, complementarity, and solidarity, responding fully to the aspirations of the Niger and Mauritanian people, who are bound by secular and fraternal bonds of friendship and cooperation.

On the subregional level, the two heads of state renewed their attachment to the objectives of the West African Economic Community, the Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, the Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement, and the ECOWAS. The attention of the two heads of state was drawn to the issue of drought and desertification. They expressed their concern for the persistence and intensity of this phenomenon despite progress by the affected countries over the past years. The two heads of state agreed to further pool their efforts in subregional, regional, and international organizations for the implementation of programs to overcome the effects of this disaster. The two heads of state have appealed to the international community to continue its concern for the subregion and to increase its assistance to the people affected by the drought and desert encroachment.

The attention of the two heads of state was drawn to the difficult economic situation of the African Continent. They expressed the hope to see the peoples of the Third World strengthen their unity so that they can better defend their interests in all discussions for the establishment of a more just and equitable world economic order. To this effect, the two heads of state expressed satisfaction over the recent special session of the UN General Assembly on economic recovery and the development of Africa.

Concerning the situation in Africa, the two heads of state reaffirmed the attachment of their countries to the ideals and principles of the OAU. The heads of state reaffirmed their determination to work toward the strengthening of the OAU which they consider as a privileged instrument for the total liberation of the African Continent and for the common struggle of the African peoples for their development. Analyzing the situation in Western Sahara, the two heads of state deplored the persistence of the conflict and expressed the hope that a just and final solution would be found in the shortest possible time.

Concerning Chad, the two heads of state reaffirmed their attachment to the unity, the territorial integrity, and the independence of this brotherly country.

Touching on the situation in southern Africa, the two heads of state reaffirmed their strong condemnation of the apartheid policy and expressed their unflinching support for the people of South Africa and Namibia who have been struggling for the recognition of their fundamental rights, liberty, and dignity under the leadership of their legitimate representative, ANC and SWAPO. The two heads of state launched an urgent appeal for the application of the pertinent resolutions of the United Nations on southern Africa, namely UN Resolution 435 of 1978 on the Namibian issue.

Analyzing the situation in the Middle East, the two heads of state deplored the outbreak of violence in their part of the world. They are convinced that the first and foremost condition for finding a just and definitive solution to the crisis is the restitution of all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and the recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to an independent state.

The two heads of state also expressed their concern for the intensification of the Gulf war and urgently appealed to Iran and Iraq to stop this (?fratricidal) war. [passage omitted]

His Excellency Brig Gen Seyni Kountche expressed his sincere thanks to his brother and friend, His Excellency Col Maayouia Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya, and to the Mauritanian Government and people for the warm and fraternal welcome accorded him and his delegation during their stay in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

His Excellency Brig Gen Seyni Kountche invited his brother and friend, His Excellency Col Maayouia Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya, to pay an official visit to the Republic of Niger. The invitation was accepted with pleasure and the date will be fixed later through diplomatic channels.

[Signed] for the Islamic Republic of Mauritania — His Excellency Maayouia Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state

[Signed] for the Republic of Niger — His Excellency Brig Gen Seyni Kountche, CMS chairman and head of state

Japan To Provide 2 Billion CFA Franc Grant

AB191644 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 19 Dec 86

[Excerpt] The governments of Niger and Japan have signed an agreement under which Japan will grant Niger about 600 million yen, that is 2 billion CFA francs, for the purchase of pesticides and treatment material. Sani Bako, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation signed for Niger, while Japanese Ambassador Kashiru Ishiola signed for his country. [passage omitted]

SENEGAL

Opposition Democratic League Holds 2d Congress

AB291439 Paris AFP in French 1420 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Dakar, 27 Dec (AFP) — At the opening of its second congress in Dakar today, the Democratic League [LD], one of the three Senegalese Marxist-Leninist parties, has asserted its desire and determination to unite the Senegalese opposition forces. "The solution to the crisis Senegal is going through can only be found through the united struggle of forces opposed to the regime," the LD secretary general, Abdulaye Bathily, said. Mr Bathily also expressed the opinion that the Senegalese opposition, which comprises 15 parties, "is capable of fulfilling the tasks and obligations necessitated by the crisis facing the present regime," and pleaded for unity among the opposition parties instead of disorderly alliances and evasiveness.

"Neither our party nor any other opposition party alone can undertake and bring about the changes expected by the Senegalese people," he asserted. The LD leader also presented the economic program proposed by his party as "the alternative to IMF and World Bank Loans" in order to end Senegal's economic crisis. This plan covers a period of 20 years and is aimed at the progressive creation of a socialist economy. Its main objectives are to raise the cultural level of the people, to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, and to build the material foundation for the transition to socialism.

The LD congress is expected to end on Sunday [28 December] evening after the election of new officers.

SIERRA LEONE

Officials Discuss Relations With Palestinians

JN271834 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] A Palestinian delegation led by Brother Abu 'Ala' [Ahmad Kurays Jamal Mazuq], member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, met with Sierra Leonean President Joseph Momoh yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed the latest political developments in the region in general and in Lebanon and the occupied land in particular. President Momoh affirmed his country's complete support for the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in their just struggle to regain all of their historic, inalienable national rights. The two sides also discussed relations between the PLO and the Republic of Sierra Leone. President Momoh stressed the importance of joint PLO-Sierra Leonean cooperation for their common interests.

At the end of the meeting, President Momoh asked the Palestinian delegation to convey his greetings and those of the Sierra Leonean Government to Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

The Palestinian delegation held a similar meeting with the [Sierra Leonean] foreign minister who reiterated his country's stand supporting our people's just struggle. Later, the delegation met with the planning minister and held a lengthy discussion on aspects of economic cooperation between the PLO and the Republic of Sierra Leone and ways to promote this cooperation.

TOGO

Eyadema Receives Message From Gorbachev

AB250701 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the RPT and president of the Republic, this morning granted an audience to USSR Ambassador to Togo Sergey Shaverdyan. Mr Shaverdyan brought an oral message from Mikhail Gorbachev to Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema. Following his talks with the head of state, the Soviet diplomat revealed that he and Gen Eyadema discussed the good relation between the USSR and Togo as well as the role being played by the head of state in favor of peace and disarmament:

[Begin Shaverdyan recording] It is a great honor for me to be received by His Excellency Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema, the founding chairman of the RPT and president of the Republic. Everyone knows how great his duties are and how tight his schedule is. I conveyed to the president a message from Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Central Committee. The message deals with the relations of friendship and cooperation existing between the USSR and Togo. I can say that during the audience some international issues were also discussed. Once again, the president demonstrated his perfect knowledge of the world economic situation. It is not surprising because the president's views are widely respected and he is deeply committed to peace and disarmament. As on previous occasions, the audience with the head of state was a source of deep inspiration for me. This time, the inspiration was so great because I was able to congratulate the president on his brilliant reelection as head of state, which confirmed the massive support he enjoys from the entire Togolese people. Of course, I used the opportunity to wish the RPT founding chairman a happy New Year and a fruitful term of office. [end recording]

Ministerial Council Adopts 1987 Budget

AB241536 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] The Council of Ministers met this morning at the State House under General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People and president of the republic.

During the meeting, the Council examined and adopted the 1987 general budget which stands at 89,691,542,000 CFA francs. The Council noted with satisfaction that the 1986 budget, originally estimated at 87,282,784,000 CFA francs, was increased to 90.6 billion CFA francs, that is a 3.3-billion CFA francs increase.

LESOTHO

Military Council Detains Former Officials

MB291643 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1641 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg Dec 29, SAPA — Lesotho's Military Council today confirmed its former ambassador to China, Mr Chaka Ntsane, was detained by security police for questioning, SABC radio news reports.

Several other arrests have also been made. Among them are the under secretary to former Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan, Mr Ranthomeng Matete, and former attorney-general, Mr Molifi Ntlhoki.

Five members of the Basotho National Party's Youth Brigade, who had been arrested following the discovery of communication apparatus at the party's head office, were still in detention.

MOZAMBIQUE

Chemical Weapons Reported in 'Fierce Fighting'

AU291807 Paris AFP in English 1804 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Lisbon, Dec 29 (AFP) — Fierce fighting erupted in Mozambique Monday as government troops seized the initiative, both sides said.

Rebels from the South African-backed Mozambique National Resistance, or Renamo, said in a statement released here that chemical weapons had been used against them.

Renamo said government troops, backed by troops from Zimbabwe and Tanzania, launched a major offensive Monday morning against its bases in the Maringue and Gorongosa regions of central Mozambique.

The rebels said paratroopers had been dropped in and that the bases were under attack from Soviet-made MiG-17, MiG-19 and MiG-21 jets and Mi-24 and Mi-25 helicopters.

Renamo accused the government of "massive" use of chemical weapons, which it said had killed 557 people in surrounding villages, all civilians. The Renamo fighters had already pulled out of their bases, the statement said.

It said Renamo had on Monday overrun the government military base at Cazula for the "second time this year," killing 41 government soldiers and 23 Zimbabweans, and destroying four Soviet-made T-54 tanks and nine BTR-152 armoured vehicles.

Government officials in Quelimane, in the north of the country, said Monday their forces were halting the three-month offensive by Renamo.

Mozambique's official news agency AIM said on Monday that several rebel bases in the districts of Alto-Molocue, Ile, Namarroi and Milange in the northern province of Zambezia had been overrun.

The agency reported provincial officials as saying government forces had overrun a rebel base at Namanjavira in Mocuba, central Zambezia, killing 80 rebels.

The Mozambique Government has repeatedly accused neighbouring Malawi of harbouring the rebels, despite the recent creation of a joint security commission between them.

Other rebel bases captured are named as Nampevo in Mocuba district and Diba in Maganja da Costa district.

Captured rebels, described by the government as "armed bandits", have admitted that Renamo is now running short of ammunition and resorting to knife and "panga" (machete) attacks.

RSA Plans for 'Bandit' Presence in South Fail

MB291639 Dakar PANA in English 1627 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Manhinca (Mozambique), 29 Dec. (AIM/PANA) — South Africa's plan to implant a strong presence of the MNR bandits in southern Mozambique "has failed", the military commander of the Maputo Province, Maj. Gen. Atanasio Mtumuke has said.

Speaking to AIM, Gen. Mtumuke referred to the massive infiltration of bandits across the South African border into Maputo Province in 1984, both before and after the signing of the Nkomati non-aggression accord.

More than 2,000 bandits were infiltrated from the eastern Transvaal into Maputo Province then.

Mtumuke said that South Africa had tried to isolate Maputo City, blocking the communications between the capital and economic centres north of the river Incomati. Much of Pretoria's destabilisation efforts were thus concentrated on the capital, and on Manica district, which lies astride the main north-south highway about 80 kilometres north of Maputo.

Mtumuke said that this plan had been defeated thanks to a reorganisation of the armed forces, and a Mozambican military offensive which eliminated hundreds of bandits, and turned the MNR units into wandering bands.

However, he warned that South Africa "will never stop infiltrating bandits into Mozambique." He added that currently the infiltration in the south was restricted to bandits with specialised training who were given specific targets to sabotage.

Mtumuke was speaking to AIM journalists shortly before arrival at the region of Majosse in Manica district on 23 Dec. Here a unit of the Mozambican Armed Forces (FPLM) had set up camp after a clash with the MNR along what they called "a bandit transit route".

In this clash on 23 Dec., two bandits died. "We have been chasing them since Saturday," one of the commanders said. "They went that way," he said pointing eastwards.

"But we know where they are going. We are just waiting for further orders to go there ourselves," he added.

These soldiers have been in the Manica bush on operations for a month. That afternoon they received fresh supplies of water, biscuits and cigarettes brought by the provincial commander.

Early that evening shots could be heard — first from an AK-47 assault sub-machine gun, and then bazooka shells.

"Those are our weapons," a captain said, as if to calm his journalist guests. But he took no chances, ordering the junior officers to put the soldiers into positions of alert.

In fact, there was no clash. The shots we had heard were from a group of FPLM troops pursuing a small MNR group. The bandits had stolen food and domestic utensils from local people in the north of the district.

"They ran and they must still be running," commented a soldier later. "They were surprised by our presence in the area. This is going well. Tomorrow we will clear this all up." With a sweep of his hand he indicated the surrounding bush.

MNR Offensive in Zambezia Reportedly Halted

MB291452 Dakar PANA in English 1400 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Quelimane (Mozambique), 29 Dec. (AIM/PANA) — The military situation in the central Mozambican province of Zambezia has changed radically over the past month in favour of the Mozambican Armed Forces (FPLM).

The offensive launched by the South African backed MNR bandits from Malawian soil in late September has ground to a halt. Now local journalists of the Mass Communications Office (GCS) report major operations are under way to sweep the MNR out of various parts of the province.

Reports, not yet confirmed, have arrived in the provincial capital, Quelimane, indicating that in the last two weeks important bandit camps have been overrun in the northern Zambezia districts of Alto-Molocue, Ile and Milange.

A bandit captured in the district of Namarroi last November said that he was part of a group of 5,000 who had been infiltrated from Malawi. He said that at the time of his capture they were beginning to run short of ammunition.

His words seem to have been confirmed in attacks, late December, by bandits using cold steel rather than firearms. Last week attacks of this sort were reported from Nicoadala district, 30 kilometres north of Quelimane and from Banjone in Maganja da Costa district, some 150 kilometres north-east of Quelimane.

Last week the FPLM also destroyed a major bandit base at Namanjavira, in the central district of Mocuba. About 80 bandits were killed here, and a large quantity of arms and ammunition were destroyed, local sources have said.

On 13 Dec., Mozambican forces destroyed another important MNR base at Nampevo, between the districts of Mocuba and Ile. In the same week, government troops also captured Diba, considered the most important bandit camp in Maganja da Costa district.

In Quelimane itself many people doubt the seriousness of Malawi's participation in the joint security commission with Mozambique. They ask whether Malawi will really honour its promise of not allowing Malawi once again to become a springboard for new South African bandit offensives against Mozambique.

One common hypothesis in Quelimane is that the South Africans may try to reorganise their bandit forces in Malawi just as they did after the MNR headquarters of Casa Banana in the central province of Sofala was taken by Mozambican and Zimbabwean forces in August 1985.

Dhlakama Said To Visit Area

MB300943 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] [Words indistinct] told AIM that they saw a plane from Blantyre land on 7 December on the airstrip in Milange, a Mozambican village in Zambezia Province. The group said that they learned later that the plane was carrying the leader of the armed bandits, Afonso Dhlakama, and 42 Portuguese and South African mercenaries. Other people, who were captives of the armed bandits in Milange at that time, confirmed these statements and said Dhlakama stayed in Milange for about 30 minutes. The (?two) refugees, who are in Moatize, Tete Province, said that the plane carrying Dhlakama and his collaborators then returned to Blantyre.

Commentary Says 'Mask' of RSA Democracy Falls

MB291837 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Commentary by Radio Mozambique journalist Machado da Graca]

[Text] For a long time, South Africa has affirmed that its political system is a democracy similar to those existing in Western countries. In support of this claim, it pointed to its political parties, its parliament, its elections at regular intervals, and, of course, its total freedom of the press. If anyone pointed out that this only applied to the white community, a small minority in the country, South Africa claimed that blacks were not citizens of South Africa but of Bantustans and therefore did not have any political rights in the country. This argument made no sense to anyone besides South Africans, but it was enough for them.

This comfortable mask has fallen off with the imposition of press censorship and other measures to ensure that only the government's own version of events reaches the people. Under the

constraints of this censorship, newspapers, most political parties, and social and political organizations have expressed their utter condemnation of these measures. Only the ultrafascists have supported them. In the United States, Great Britian, and other Western countries, many have been genuinely taken aback and have asked: How is it possible that South Africa, which claimed it was defending the civilized values of the Western world, could introduce such measures?

It appears that the government of P.W. Botha has torn off the mask of democracy and trampled on it. This has made Western governments and many whites in South Africa realize something we have been telling them for a long time: The South African regime is in no way a liberal and democratic regime, but the legitimate heir of the Nazism-fascism of Hitler, Mussolini, and Salazar.

SOUTH AFRICA

New U.S. Sanctions Measures 'Certain To Hurt'

MB291221 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1215 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 29, SAPA — A hammer blow from new sanctions measures seem certain to hurt — and even devastate — the profitability of U.S. subsidiary companies in South Africa, many of which have in any case been suffering hard times in terms of profits..

Long-delayed, new regulations, finally issued by the U.S. Treasury Department to implement the ban on new U.S. investment in SA, close all the major loopholes by which U.S. subsidiaries in SA have been able to carry on "much as usual" even where there has been disinvestment by the American parent companies.

The new U.S. rules, published today, prohibit parent companies from injecting new resources into their SA operations. It is reported that: "Their increasing obsolescence is thus assured."

Moreover, if U.S.-owned plant is destroyed or damaged by accident or sabotage, the parent is only allowed to restore it to its previous, often outdated, condition if it is using outside funds.

Many of the strategies which American companies have used to pull out of SA while permitting their former subsidiaries to remain in business may not be illegal, say experts. "For instance, the General Motors agreement to pay off GMSA's debts could now run foul of the law. So could transfers of assets to SA buyers made subject to an agreement to repurchase.

"The 50 U.S. subsidiaries in SA known to be planning possible withdrawal from the country could now be joined by another 50 next year..." says a Washington commentator.

Locally, it is reported that many companies have been left dangling in confusion, because even though the investment ban technically went into effect on November 16, bureaucratic delays have prevented the administration issuing its official interpretation of the obscurely drafted law for more than a month.

New investment is defined in the rules to: "include a commitment or contribution of funds or other assets, and a loan or other extension of credit .."

Rescheduling of existing debt is only permitted if "no new funds or credits are thereby transferred or extended" to an SA borrower, says a Johannesburg source.

"U.S. companies can no longer use their foreign affiliates outside South Africa to get round the ban, nor may they knowingly act through or participate with another overseas party."

Exceptions include:

— Reinvestment of profit earned by a U.S.-controlled organisation in that or another SA entity.

— Contributions required to enable a U.S.-controlled SA organisation to operate in an economically sound manner, without expanding its operations.

— The ownership of control of an interest in a SA organisation, or of securities of the SA Government or an SA entity issued before October 2 this year.

— The transfer of aqcuisition of such a pre-October 2 interest or security where no payment, contribution of funds or assets, or credit to the entity or issuer results.

— Expenses to comply with the code of cunduct (Sullivan Principles) as mandated by the sanctions bill.

— Market rate sales of goods services and technology.

— The purchase of a residence for personal use by the purchasing U.S. national.

— Charitable contributions.

U.S. residents and companies may continue to hold and open bank accounts in SA, but such accounts may only be used "strictly to payfor and clear transactions."

It is reported that at a meeting with "business representatives on December 11, U.S. officials conceded the rules then being finalised left many specific questions unanswered and urged firms to seek guidance from the Treasury on a case-by-case basis."

BUSINESS DAY on Sanctions

MB291622 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 29 Dec 86 p 5

[By economics editor Gerald Prosalendis]

[Excerpts] Although attempts to unravel the impact of sanctions on SA's economy are riddled with unknowns, those imposed this year are so far having little effect.

But as the year draws to a close, some conclusions can be drawn.

Firstly, sanctions have not been the quick fix that many thought — so far they have failed to force a change of heart on government.

They have not brought the SA economy to its knees and are unlikely to dod so.

Rather, they have provided government with a means of deflecting moral responsibility for many of the ills of its own making onto the proponents of sanctions themselves.

Sanctions have also weakened Western, and particularly US, influence in South Africa.

In addition, there are broader issues which have been raised by the sanctions campaign against SA. US and UK bankers have been seen to capitulate to political pressure. [passage omitted]

Also, by cutting SA — a large trader and supplier of raw materials — out of legitimate world markets, opportunities for arbitrage proliferate.

International trade with SA is being driven into a nether world of black market dealing where statistics are unreliable and control impossible.

And where there is demand, there will be supply.

It was in late September and early October that a broad range of mandatory sanctions was finally imposed on SA. [passage omitted.

But it was the US sanctions package, which came into force in mid-November, that took mandatory sanctions against SA a step further. [passage omitted]

Although serious, it is estimated these measures will result in a 5 percent drop in export earnings for SA.

But, many of the recent sanctions have merely written into law what already exists.

For example, the US ban on new investment in SA, and loans to the SA government and agencies controlled by it, has been a fact of life for some time.

Foreign banks — and not just those in the US — have been withdrawing, rather than investing capital from SA for nearly two years.

A local banker says: "No US loans or investment have flowed into SA because bankers and companies feel the risk is too high, and it is unlikely that they will change their minds soon."

But, it is these "financial sanctions," rather than trade sanctions, which have done damage to the SA economy, and jeopardised chances for long-term growth.

The pressure they have exerted on the capital account has resulted in a lower exchange rate, higher inflation and a lower rate of real economic growth. And while the capital outflow continues, SA will have little choice but to run a large surplus on the current account, forcing the monetary authorities to apply a more restrictive monetary and fiscal policy than they would otherwise have done.

Far from being an excuse for fiscal excess and a permissive monetary policy, then, sanctions will discipline SA's economy.

One of the real threats of sanctions to SA's economy, and an already over-regulated free market system, is inherent in government's response to sanctions. Should government perceive sanctions merely as an opportunity to increase its control over the economy, and be misled into believing that interest rates can be kept low, the exchange rate high and growth increased merely by bureaucratic decree, the results could be disastrous.

Yes, the need to trade in a hostile world will make it necessary for international relationships to be concealed, statistics hidden and trading partners obscured. But this should not be confused with those calling for blanket controls both on information and economic activity.

So far, the monetary authorities have reacted with circumspection. Finance Director General Chris Stals says: "Careful management of the economy is essential. In future we will be unable to afford unnecessary expenditure in both the public and private sector.

"Sanctions make it important that we determine spending priorities and get it moving in these directions.

Police Detain BUSINESS DAY Reporter 29 Dec
MB291532 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1528 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 29, SAPA — *Business Day* reporter Sipho Ngcobo has been detained under Section 29 of Internal Security Act, the newspaper's acting editor, Mr Mike Acott, said today.

Mr Acott told SAPA Ngcobo was picked up from the newspaper's office this afternoon by two plainclothes policemen. No reason was given for his arrest.

"They asked to interview him. I told them they could do so in my presence. Then they searched his desk and informed him he was being detained," Mr Acott said.

The newspaper's lawyers today petitioned the commissioner of police for the release of the 32 year-old journalist.

Ngcobo has recently carried out investigations into township life and given accounts of street committees and "people's courts."

[SAPA prefaces this item with the following warning: "Attention editors: This item may contravene the emergency regulations if published or broadcast. We have sent a copy to the IPLC [Interdepartmental Press Liaison Center] for clearance."]

BUSINESS DAY Protests Arrest

MB300713 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0656 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg Dec 30 SAPA — The detention of *Business Day* reporter Sipho Ngcobo would cut off another source of information about South African politics and plunge whites into even deeper ignorance, the paper said in a front-page editorial today. It said Ngcobo's reporting on township politics had given readers "a unique and illuminated view of township affairs." "His detention puts out their eyes and increases their uncertainty."

Ngcobo 32, was detained by security policemen at the newspaper's Johannesburg offices yesterday. He was taken to John Vorster Square after his desk, notebooks and personal effects were searched and several documents confiscated.

Business Day lawyers were not allowed to speak to the reporter.

The managing director of South African Associated Newspapers [SAAN], Mr Stephen Mulholland, said Ngcobo should be released immediately or charged. The reporter's inability to communicate with his lawyers or family added a "nightmarish dimension" to an already distasteful matter and SAAN would do all it could to help Ngcobo and his family, Mr Mulholland said. "The whole matter is disturbing in the extreme in the sense that Ngcobo's reporting of township matters... could now be severely circumscribed and his credibility, not to say his own personal safety, put at risk. There is already ample evidence that the public is uneasy over the lack of credible information as to what is taking place in the country.... The seizure of an able reporter such as Ngcobo further erodes the credibility of the press and therefore damages the interests of the country," Mr Mulholland said.

In its editorial, *Business Day* said it was impossible to say whether Ngcobo's detention had anything to do with the state of emergency. "Section 29 existed before the emergency and detentions under that clause are as likely to be a cause of the emergency as a consequence of it. Earlier detentions under Section 29 failed to avert the emergency and Ngcobo's detention will surely not end it. ...As is usual in these cases, we demand that the authorities bring Ngcobo to trial or release him to go lawfully about his business.

"We have not the faintest illusion that our demand will be heeded. SA groans under a government that has abandoned the tenets of justice as it has violated the procedures of democracy. In making a formal demand for trial or release, therefore, we simply restate a principle of good government that can be restored in SA only by the defeat of an oppressive and increasingly totalitarian party. Ngcobo's arrest is but one more reason among thousands for all democratic South Africans to come together in a determined campaign to end the long dark night of nationalist misrule."

DET Explains Need for New School Regulations

MB291341 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1340 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 29, SAPA — The Department of Education and Training [DET] has said the new wide-ranging emergency regulations promulgated today in a special government gazette were aimed at creating conditions for "uninterrupted and meaningful education."

"It is the undeniable right of every parent to insist upon uninterrupted and meaningful education for his child, also the right of every child to enjoy the necessary protection in order to make full use of education opportunities," said DET's acting director-general, Mr J.L.C. Strydom, in a statement issued by the Bureau for Information.

"There is incontrovertible evidence to prove that the vast majority of parents and pupils place a high premium on education and are anxious that calm and good discipline be maintained at schools. It cannot be allowed that pupils be prevented from attending school, writing important examinations or that they be molested or physically harmed in any way."

He said an important responsibility of all principals, teachers and other officials was, in conjunction with parents, to prevent the intimidation of innocent pupils or their misuse by outsiders for selfish political purposes, and to ensure that the normal business of any school was not disrupted or disturbed.

"In order to exercise this responsibility, it has become necessary to issue regulations according to the Public Safety Act (1953) today. These regulations make provision for the issuing of orders by the director general of education and training to create a healthy climate in all schools for the presentation of effective and uninterrupted education," he said.

Mr Strydom said any orders or instructions that might possibly be issued in terms of these emergency regulations would be aimed at promoting education and would be primarily in the interest of pupils and parents.

Saying the past years had seen a host of major improvements in education of blacks and the elimination of grievances, he added: "1987 can justifiably, therefore, be looked forward to as a year in which uninterrupted, effective education can be offered with the full cooperation of parents in the interest of the future of every individual pupil."

UDF Endorses Back-To-School Call

MB291554 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1544 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 29, SAPA — The United Democratic Front today endorsed an appeal by parent and student groups that students across the country return to school next year.

Although the detention of students and "intransigent attitude" of the DET [Department of Education and Training] hindered a return to normality in the schools, the UDF believed that "wher-

ever and whenever possible students have to be at school all the time," Mr Murphy Morobe, acting publicity secretary for the UDF, said in a press statement.

"The extent to which this will be the case in 1987 will, like in 1986, depend on the way the DET and other departments like law and order will be dealing with well-known demands of parents on the whole education issue."

A return-to-class would help the struggle for a democratic education system in long term and did not mean "students and the black community are prepared to swallow anything that comes from Pretoria," Mr Morobe said.

NECC Supports Back-To-School Call

MB291557 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1549 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 29, SAPA — The National Education Crisis Committee [NECC] today endorsed calls by parent and student groups for black students across the country to return to school next year.

"Throughout South Africa, students, parents and teachers have made it clear that there will return to school in January 1987. The NECC, on the basis of wide consensus amongst our constituencies, hereby endorses that call," the organisation's spokesman, Mr Eric Molobi, said in a press statement.

Mr Molobi said the government's closure of schools and refusal to negotiate on educational issues would not help the return to school.

"The most sensible beginning for 1987 is for the DET to reopen all schools and allow our children to receive an education," he said.

Black Exam Passing Rate Higher Than Reported

MB300900 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] The South African Department of Education and Training said the pass rate for black matriculants this year was almost 52 percent and not 39 percent as previously reported. The statement said just over 13 percent gained the university entrance. The department said this compared favourably with the pass rate of just over 49 percent in 1985. The improvement of almost 3 percent was an indication of better education and a growing resistance to intimidation, disruption, and senseless stayaway actions in black schools.

Police Discover Hungarian-Made Rifles

MB291528 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1522 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 29, SAPA — Municipal workers today discovered an arms cache containing two AMD-65 rifles, Hungarian versions of the familiar AK-47 weapon made in the Soviet bloc countries, and ammunition on Observatory Koppie [small hill] near Johannesburg, police spokesman Lt Pierre Louw said.

Workers clearing a trail discovered an oblong box hidden in undergrowth.

Lt Louw, from John Vorster Square, said six loaded magazines were found with the rifles.

Police are investigating.

Cape Beach Restores 'Whites Only' Rule

MB300727 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0714 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Cape Town Dec 30 SAPA — Beach apartheid has returned to Gordon's Bay with the eviction of several Indian and coloured holiday-makers from Bikini Beach where officials yesterday added a "Whites Only" sign to notices prohibiting dogs and fires.

One source said that on Sunday there had been heated verbal exchanges between a group of coloured people and white residents, and officials had asked an Indian family to leave. A Gordon's Bay curio shop and restaurant owner, Mr Basil du Toit, said officials told him yesterday they wanted to remove access steps to Bikini Beach "to cut down on the numbers of coloureds going on to the beach." The officials returned later and attached a "Whites Only/Slegs Blankes" board to a pole carrying signs prohibiting dogs and fires.

The deputy town clerk of Gordon's Bay, Mr Chris Neethling, said the sign was re-erected becuase of recent "problems" on the beach. He declined to elaborate. But he did say there had been an incident at Bikini Beach some three weeks ago. "A group of coloured people arrived in their underpants... when they start playing games, everything hangs out, you know," he said. He also confirmed that a group of Indian holiday-makers were recently evicted from the beach. "There was no Amanzimtoti here," Mr Neethling said, referring to the violence on Natal Beaches at the weekend.

Information Bureau Issues Unrest Report

MB301258 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1257 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 30, SAPA — Following is the daily unrest report issued by the Bureau for Information:

"Unrest report 00h01 to 24h00 (29 December)

"A group of coloureds threw a petrol bomb at a cold drink delivery vehicle in Kleinskool (Port Elizabeth) yesterday. Three coloured men inside the vehicle were slightly injured and extensive damage was caused to the vehicle. No arrests have thus far been made.

"A shot was fired at security force members by a group of four black men in Katlehong (Germiston) yesterday. The security forces returned fire and one man was wounded in the leg.

"A mob of about 20 riotous black youths stoned a bus in Indunduma (Pinetown) yesterday slightly injuring the driver. Thus far no arrests have been made."

End report

Press Comments on Current Problems, Issues

MB300629 [Editorial report]

CITIZEN Criticizes Press Curbs

Under the new media restrictions, newspapers "suffer grievously in carrying out their normal functions, having virtually to abandon reporting of unrest or unrest-related matters for fear of breaching the regulations," Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 29 December says in a page 6 editorial. "Little gets into the newspapers about these topics. As a result, people are left to wonder what is going on." Furthermore, although the press restrictions may silence "the UDF and other radical groups," this "does not mean that the underlying grievances of Blacks are resolved."

STAR on Gold, Taxes

Gold "has come to the rescue of the economy; or, more accurately, has kicked up a large enough cloud of gold dust to obscure for the moment the crucial weaknesses in it," Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 29 December says in a page 14 editorial. In the past, increases in teh price of gold "have been dissipated trying to prove that unworkable policies could be made to work if only enough money were thrown at them. One consequence has been to turn South Africa into a grotesquely overtaxed country which extracts from its citizens, in the name of free marketry, most of the penalties of socialism with few if any of the advantages. There is hardly a democratic country in the Western world that offers its citizens so little in the way of social benefits for so much in the way of tax."

BUSINESS DAY: Government 'Bankrupt'

The South African Government has "lost the initiative" and "has become reactionary. There are no new ideas from government, no new approaches; simply responses, usually knee-jerk, to whatever events present themselves," Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 29 December says in a page 4 editorial. "Truth is that power is slipping through the government's fingers. It is losing the ability to govern the country for the very simple reason that the majority of this nation's people are no longer prepared to be governed by it. Indeed, more and more they indicate their willingness to defy it. We can no longer expect solutions from an order that is manifestly bankrupt: morally, intellectually and politically. Instead, every individual must by himself take that first tenetative step into the new world, for the solution truly lies with the people of this country."

BUSINESS DAY on 'Irony' in Sanctions

"There is a certain irony in the sight of U.S. legislators, all of whom voted for sanctions on SA, lobbying President Reagan to exclude their constituents from the effects of those sanctions," *Business Day* says ain a second editorial on the same page. However, even if the six senators who now worry about the effects of the ban of South African uranium on jobs had relied on "reason and logic" rather than "emotion and rhetoric" when voting on the sanctions issue, "the intransigence of Pretoria meant ultimately that a vote against sanctions was a vote for racism. At the same time, it is novel for South Africans, used to a government unresponsive to the will of the people, to see legislators in action who are truly answerable to their voters."

SOWETAN on Durban Beach Clashes

"The ugly race fights at Durban beaches over the festive season do not come as too much of a surprise, as it will take time before attitudes caused by the apartheid system of separate beaches sort themselves out," Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 29 December says in a page 6 editorial. "Race feelings of suspicion and often anger are easily sparked, especially when it is as intimate a facility as the beach. It is the tragedy of South Africa that something that should have been enjoyed by all its people in an open friendly fashion degenerates into such ugly fighting. The world must regard us as a very strange species, although race confrontation is not confined to this country. It is the heritage of a separateness that we have to outlive, something that will no doubt disappear when the country assumes normal civilised standards of behaviour."

BEELD on Beach Racial Disturbances

Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 29 December, in a page 10 editorial, notes that "it is unfortunate that the festive season has been marred by racial disturbances at the Amanzimtoti beach." The incident reveals that racial feelings lie very near the surface in South Africa. South Africa "is the world's test tube as far as race relations are concerned." The ultimate goal for South Africa ia a community in which all races can work and play peacefully. Amanzimtoti has shown how far South Africa is from this goal.

Commentary Condemns 'Inhumanity' in Zambia

MB300545 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Kenneth David Kaunda is, after Dr Banda of Malawi, the longest serving head of state in southern Africa. He is, as well, the chairman of the group of southern African states in the forefront of the vendetta against South Africa. But his personal record of leadership is a sorry one.

In 22 years as president, Kaunda has plunged a potentially prosperous country into bankruptcy. Socialist policies, such as the establishment of state farms, have ruined rich agricultural potential; economic policies have favored the urban privileged minority and accentuated rural underdevelopment. The gap has progressively widened between the urban rich and the poor masses, whether they live in the impoverished and neglected rural areas or in urban slums. Malnutrition, unemployment and death from diseases ranging from measles to malaria are widespread.

So grave is the state of the Zambian economy that when the International Monetary Fund was — not for the first time — called in to mount a rescue operation it ordered drastic action that had the effect of more than doubling the price of maize, a staple food. Bloody riots erupted and cost the lives of at least 15 people.

As the social and economic situation in Zambia has become progressively worse, the Kaunda regime has become increasingly despotic and repressive. Zambia has had a state of emergency for 22 years — and many thousands of Zambians have been thrown into prison in terms of emergency regulations. Just how inhumane and cruel the Kaunda regime has become has been highlighted by Mr John Edlin, a foreign correspondent who has worked in Africa for more than 20 years. Last week, Mr Edlin spent five days in what he described as a medieval prison. The conditions in this Zambian prison, he reported, were appalling, with overcrowding, unhygenic conditions and deplorable food. In one cell were 18 children between the ages of 7 and 14 who were subjected to rape by their guards.

Mr Edlin's report serves to confirm the experiences reported by other victims of official brutality in Zambia: the Austrian woman who was stripped naked, physically assaulted and questioned for hours by teams of policemen; the two Germans who, with a British companion, were imprisoned for a month and physically and psychologically tortured; the three British students who were maltreated in a Zambian jail; and many more. One can but shudder in horror at the thought of the fate of thousands of Zambians who have fallen foul of the Kaunda regime and whose story — unlike that of foreign citizens — will never reach the outside world.

Kenneth Kaunda weeps often in public when describing conditions elsewhere. But in his own Zambia he is erecting one of the many monuments in Africa to man's inhumanity to man in the 20th century.

ZAMBIA

Military Seals Township To Recover Looted Goods

MB291923 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Military personnel today sealed off (Bulinguililo) township in an intensified operation clean-up to recover property looted during recent riots over increased prices of mealie meal. Hundreds of workers from the Kitwe township failed to get to work today as all entrances to the area were sealed off at dawn and no traffic could either enter or leave the township. Provincial police chief Darius Kalebo could not be reached for details on how many people had been rounded up or on what property recovered. (Bulinguililo), a site and service settlement, is mostly inhabited by aliens believed to be involved in shady deeds.

Official Denies Youth Group Used for Security

MB300729 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] A top army officer has dispelled fears amongst some Zambians that the proposed Zambian Union of Young Pioneers, ZUP, will be a clandestine security network to be used against them by the party and its government. Colonel Eric Wanduma from army headquarters said this in a paper presented to the ongoing Young Pioneers workshop at the President's Citizenship College in Kabwe. Colonel Wanduma said that such unfounded fears were based on reports that some countries, which he did not name, were using Young Pioneers as seuciry networks. He said the party felt that the young must be trained in security awareness to make them politically and ideologically prepared to play a leading role as future leaders instead of leaving them ignorant of their future roles.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 DECEMBER 1986

Iran

U.S. Relations — The Iranian-U.S. talks at The Hague are not connected with the issue of U.S. hostages in Lebanon or with Robert McFarlane's secret trip to Tehran, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi stated in remarks cited by IRNA 31 December.

Stand on ICO Summit — In a 30 December meeting with the visiting ICO secretary general, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani asserted that it is "not right" for Iran to participate in the ICO summit in Kuwait, IRNA reported. Claiming that Kuwait is acting like an Iraqi province, he said there is little difference between holding the conference in Kuwait or in Iraq. Prime Minister Musavi likewise told the ICO official that Kuwait cannot guarantee the security of the meeting because Iraqi aircraft overfly its territory and Iraqi "terrorist" networks operate inside Kuwait, according to Tehran radio.

Karbala 4 Offensive — The head of Iran's War Information Headquarters commented on the recent offensive at a press conference reported by IRNA, stressing that Karbala 4 was a small-scale attack involving less than 6,000 Iranian troops. On the other hand, Mojahedin-e Khalq sources cited by the *Jordan Times* gave credence to Iraqi claims about Iranian casualties, asserting that over 35,000 Iranians were killed or wounded in the attack across the Shatt al-'Arab.

Israel

Former Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche denied a U.S. press report that he proposed the transfer of money from the Iran arms deal to the Nicaraguan contras. Speaking in a Jerusalem radio interview, Kimche said the story is "ridiculous and nonsense," and he said that Colonel Oliver North must be "trying to pass the blame, if he really said those things."

Egypt

Relations With Israel — Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid received Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir in Cairo 30 December, MENA reported, noting that they discussed ways to activate the peace process. 'Abd al-Majid said afterward that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will visit Egypt as soon as an agenda is prepared. An IDF radio report on the talks noted that Tamir was presented with new Egyptian ideas for peace in the Middle East.

Internal Affairs — MENA reported that opposition members withdrew from a People's Assembly session during which an amendment to the electoral law was approved. The leaders of the neo-Wafd group and the Socialist Labor Party complained that the new measure is not a radical reform and that insufficient time was allotted to discuss it. On the other hand, NDP deputies said the new bill will strengthen democracy by allowing independent candidates to run for elections separately from the party lists.

Earlier, in a 29 December statement broadcast by Cairo radio, Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi told the Assembly that the government seeks a "constructive dialogue" with opposition parties. Noting the need to strengthen internal security, he said that a dialogue on this issue with parties holding various views will promote mutual understanding and strengthen national unity. Sidqi stressed that the authorities will spare no effort to improve the competence of the internal security forces to protect society from dangers threatening it. He also referred to the negotiations with the IMF during his lengthy policy review, stating that Egypt will not accept any conditions incompatible with its interests.

Lebanon

Palestinian officials based in Damascus welcomed the Amal Movement leader's cease-fire announcement but accused Amal forces of continuing to shell Palestinian camps in Beirut, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

Regarding the possibility of a Lebanese-Syrian summit, the Lebanese Forces Command Council stated that the agenda for a summit should include a timetable for the Syrian Army's withdrawal from Lebanon, Voice of Lebanon radio noted.

In another development, the "organization of the oppressed of the earth" stated that it has executed three Lebanese Jews who were kidnapped in Beirut last year, Beirut radio reported.

Libya and the USSR

JANA reported that the Soviet ambassador gave Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi a new year message from CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

Ndjamena radio warned of a "Soviet-Libyan plot" against Chad, asserting that the USSR has sent military experts into northern Chad to assist Libyan forces.

Sudan

Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi announced his government's intention to establish a high coordination council for southern Sudan headed by an independent southerner, SUNA reported. In remarks broadcast by Omdurman radio, he assured southerners that all Sudanese Muslims accept that Sudan is a multireligious society. Accusing the SPLA of issuing false reports about the course of the war in the south, he denied the SPLA's claim to have sunk a convoy of barges on the Nile.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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'Arafat on 'Alliance' Against Iraq, Camps War

JN301656 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has called on the Arabs to adopt a clear, frank stand to confront the Zionist-Iranian-imperialist alliance against Iraq and not to be satisfied with denunciatory statements only. In a statement to *Alif Ba'* magazine to be published tomorrow, Yasir 'Arafat said that the Zionist entity cannot imagine the Iraq-Iran war ending and that its senior officials and leaders affirm this belief, thus mirroring the Zionist fear of Iraq's victory. He added that what is taking place in the Arab arena is so serious that the Zionists are following this war daily, and there is a committee of senior officers in the Zionist army following it.

The PLO Executive Committee chairman also touched on the situation in the camps in Beirut and southern Lebanon. He said Palestinian and national Lebanese steadfastness has changed many equations. He affirmed that the plot is continuing and that it is aimed at the entire region, not only Lebanon.

'Arafat added that the Palestinian revolution would not have been isolated had Iraq not been preoccupied with its defensive war with Iran. 'Arafat explained the Syrian regime's role in what is taking place in Lebanon and the coordination between that regime and the Zionist entity to liquidate the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. He added that both parties support the agent Amal gangs and noted a remark by Yitzhaq Rabin, former enemy war minister [as heard], that he was not in favor of the collapse of Amal. 'Arafat also noted the role played by Syrian artillery, tanks, and intelligence together with the Lebanese Army 6th Brigade against the Palestinian camps. He said the camps war has confirmed Palestinian unity because everyone has fought under the PLO flag in all camps and in Maghdushah.

Palestinians React to Birri Cease-Fire Call

JN301858 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1740 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] [PNSF Chairman] Khalid al-Fahum has welcomed the announcement by attorney Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement, about an immediate and complete cease-fire and the lifting of the siege of the camps. Al-Fahum said: We are looking forward to the implementation of this cease-fire and the abidance by it of all parties. We highly value the role Syria and Iran continue to play to avoid the bloodshed among the sons of the same trench. Al-Fahum added that the Palestinian revolution cannot forget the heavy sacrifices offered by the Lebanese people, particularly in southern Lebanon, in support of the Palestinian struggle. He said: We repeat once again that we are eager to restore fraternal militant relations among the Palestinian revolution, the Amal Movement, and the other Lebanese nationalist forces.

However, a spokesman for the Fatah uprising movement stated a few hours following Nabih Birri's announcement that elements of the Amal Movement and the Lebanese Army fiercely shelled the Shatila camp at 1000 this morning as the people were coming out of shelters. The spokesman said that as a result of this shelling there were many victims, including eight children. The spokesman warned Amal against continuing to use these methods.

A military spokesman for the PFLP also accused elements of Amal and the Lebanese Army 1st and 6th Brigades of exacerbating the military situation near the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps. He said that the Shatila camp has been subjected to fierce and indiscriminate shelling since 1000 this morning. He added: This military escalation once again demonstrates the falseness of the claims by the Amal Movement leaders regarding their abidance by the cease-fire.

Dr Samir Ghawshah, leader of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, has also welcomed Nabih Birri's announcement. He said that he hopes this will be the prelude to a serious political discussion among the Palestinian national factions, Amal, and the Lebanese nationalist forces under Syria's auspices. Dr Ghawshah said the Palestinian factions remain committed to the Iranian initiative and to the efforts by friends and allies to end the bloodshed. He also called for not only lifting the siege of the Al-Rashidiyah camp but also of Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah.

Agree To Cease-fire

JN301927 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Guarded calm prevails in the Palestinian camp areas in Beirut and southern Lebanon. A Palestinian spokesman announced that the Palestinian defenders will adhere to the cease-fire agreement, affirming that the Palestinian defenders are trying to entrench the cease-fire comprehensively and definitively. The latest news reports from the Palestinian camps say that the Amal Movement militias have not adhered to a comprehensive cease-fire and that sporadic exchanges of fire and sniper fire are continuing in the Shatila camp area. Meanwhile, the tight siege around the Al-Rashidiyah camp in southern Lebanon continues.

'Abd al-Majid, Israeli Official Discuss Peace

NC301821 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Avraham Tamir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, who is visiting Cairo.

The meeting was also attended by Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Moshe Sason and Egyptian Ambassador in Tel Aviv Muhammad Basyuni.

The officials discussed ways to stimulate the peace process in view of Israel's acceptance in principle of an international conference.

During the meeting Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid asserted the need for all parties to make efforts to hold an international conference, so that 1987 will be a year of negotiations to bring peace to the Middle East and a just solution to the Palestinian issue.

Following the meeting, Dr 'Abd al-Majid told reporters that Egypt believes comprehensive peace is in the interest of all parties and that Egypt is seeking to achieve such a peace.

He said that he discussed this at length with Avraham Tamir, asserting that Egypt's position is clear and that it is working for a peaceful settlement, advocating an international conference.

As to setting a date for Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to Cairo, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said it will take place as soon as an agenda is prepared.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid also said that Israel's position is clear and remains as announced in Alexandria in September 1986, noting that this is a positive stand.

Avraham Tamir told reporters that his discussions today were fruitful. Asked about the date of Peres' visit to Cairo, he said: We have discussed this. He noted, however, that he cannot provide details. He pointed out that Peres has had an invitation to visit Cairo for several months.

Asked if there is a possibility of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visiting Egypt, Tamir said: "I do not know."

Responding to a question about statements by President Husni Mubarak that there were new ideas for accelerating the peace process, Tamir said that this issue had been discussed, adding: I cannot reveal details about those ideas.

USSR Envoy Suggests 'High-Level' Economic Talks

PM301253 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 Dec 86 p 1

[Unattributed Report: "Soviet Ambassador Suggests Holding High-Level Meeting To Solve Economic Problems"]

[Text] The Soviet ambassador in Cairo has suggested to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry that a high-level political meeting be held between the Egyptian and Soviet prime ministers or between the two countries' foreign ministers. The proposed meeting would be to reach a final solution to the economic problems between the two countries. The third round of economic talks between the two countries ended last week. *Al-Wafd* has learned that the Soviet ambassador expressed to Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials Moscow's readiness to receive any Egyptian political official to discuss the problems between the countries. The ambassador stressed that development of political relations between the two countries would contribute effectively to the solution of the Egyptian-Soviet economic problems.

Mubarak Cables Soviet, PRC Leaders on New Year

NC311143 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent cables of congratulations to their majesties and excellencies the kings and leaders of countries that are celebrating the new year. He wished them all health and happiness and continued progress and prosperity for their peoples. He also expressed the hope that the new year will see more combined efforts to establish peace in the world and enable all peoples to enjoy security and stability. The president praised the relations of friendship and cooperation between Egypt and the peoples of their friendly and fraternal countries.

In his cable to Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee secretary general, the president said: On this happy occasion, I stress my hope that the existing good relations between our two friendly countries, which we are both eager to see grow and develop, will become stronger and more extensive in the various fields of cooperation, in the common interest, and in the service of current international issues.

The president sent a similar cable to Andrey Gromyko, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman.

In his congratulations to PRC State Council Premier Zhao Ziyang and PRC President Li Xiannian, President Mubarak expressed his appreciation of China's support for the efforts to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. He added that he hopes this effective role will continue until peace prevails in this vital region. This peace is linked to that of the world, and to its prosperity and stability. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Paper Interviews Egyptian Party Officials

JN251321 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Dec (INA) — Four Egyptian party leaders have asserted that Egypt, on popular and official levels, stands by Iraq in defending its sovereignty against Iranian aggression. This came in an interview held by the newspaper *Al-Jumhuriyah* with leaders of the Al-Ummah Party, The Al-Wafd Party, the Socialist Labor Party, and the National Progressive Unionist Party, which was published in its issue here today.

Ahmad al-Sabahi, leader of the Egyptian Al-Ummah Party, said: I refused to go to Damascus so as not to see the faces of the two killers, Hafiz Al-Asad and Nabih Birri, as well as all those who direct their weapons against the Palestinian Arab

people. The Egyptian politician added: I and the rest of the leaders of Egyptian opposition parties responded to the pan-Arab duty to stop the horrible massacre of children, women, youths, and elderly people in Palestinian camps. However, he added, I found no reason to go to Damascus, and I preferred to go to Baghdad to meet with the struggler leaders of Iraq and Palestine.

Al-Sabahi pointed out that he views the Iranian war of aggression against Iraq as a crime of the Tehran rulers against Islam and Arabism, a crime which has lasted for 6 years to satisfy Khomeyni's aggressive, criminal desire. The Al-Ummah Party leader asserted that the Egyptian people stand by Iraq in its fight for peace — a peace which is obstructed by Khomeyni's criminal regime. He said: I am convinced that Hafiz al-Asad, Nabih Birri, and the rest of their group are determined to liquidate and exterminate the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon.

The newspaper *Al-Jumhuriyah* also met with 'Izzat 'Atshi, assistant secretary general of the Al-Ummah Party. He said: I have the impression a scheme to partition Lebanon is now being implemented and that the Syrian rulers are exploiting the rift in Palestinian ranks to entrench some agent Palestinians as tools to serve their aims.

On the Iranian aggressiona gainst Iraq, 'Atshi said Iran's insistence on war is due to U.S. arms supplies, which Israel helped transport to Tehran. 'Atshi concluded: I find it shameful that some Arab rulers and politicians do not declare a frank, clear stand on the arms deal and on all parties involved in it, parties which use the Iranian aggression against Iraq as a means to impose hegemony on the Arab homeland.

Al-Jumhuriyah also met with Ahmad Taha, member of the Al-Wafd Party. He said the Tehran rulers' insistence on continuing the war of aggression is complete madness due to the huge losses for the Iranian peoples. He pointed out that the scandal of the U.S.-Israeli arms deal with Iran confirms that Washington and Tel Aviv are behind the continuation of the war. Regrettably, he said, there are Arab parties sharing in the perpetuation of this war.

Ahmad Taha asserted that the Egyptian people stand by their brothers the Iraqi people in defending their national sovereignty. He called for a unified Arab stand in support of Iraq. On the Syrian regime's position on the camps war against Palestinians, he said the statement by the Egyptian party leaders hold Syria responsible for stopping the fighting against the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

'Abd al-Fattah al-Shurbaji, secretary general of the Liberal Socialist Party, said: We believe that what is currently demanded is not only to condemn the Iranian aggression, but also to search for ways to stop it.

Al-Shurbaji expressed bitterness because the Lebanese arena has now become field of experiments for forces hostile to the Arab people's aspirations. Concluding, Al-Shurbaji asserted that the Iranians and their allies know well that the Egyptian people will not accept anyone harming the Iraqi people's rights.

People's Assembly Approves Election Law Changes

NC301701 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1228 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA) — The People's Assembly reconvened today under the chairmanship of Speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub, discussing the Legislative Committee's report on three bills pertaining to the election law. The bills had been proposed by Assembly Members Kamal Al-Shadhili, Mumtaz Nassar, and Milad Hanna.

Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub said he had received notification from Councillor Mumtaz Nassar, leader of the Neo-Wafd Opposition Group, indicating that he is withdrawing because yesterday's session, which voted to approve in principle the bill submitted by Kamal al-Shadhili, was attended by only 169 members, not a legal quorum; because the opposition was not given an opportunity to oppose this bill; and because of a radio broadcast today announcing that the bill had been approved.

Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub said he had also received notification from Engineer Ibrahim Shukri [leader of the opposition Socialist Labor Party] indicating he rejects the election bill submitted by Kamal al-Shadhili and will not participate today in discussion of its clauses in view of the haste with which the bill was discussed yesterday and because he and his colleagues were not able to take part in the discussion. He added that there had been no quorum when the preliminary vote was taken. [passage omitted]

Majority members of the People's Assembly commented on the withdrawal of the opposition, saying that it represents an unacceptable threat to the majority and that Egypt now enjoys unprecedented democracy, which is a credit to President Husni Mubarak.

The members noted during their discussion of Al-Shadhili's bill that the amendments introduced to the election law, which deal with allowing independent candidates to run for election, have strengthened democracy and given citizens an opportunity to choose from among independent candidates and from electoral lists submitted by the parties, which will present their best candidates. [passage omitted]

The People's Assembly has approved the clause dividing Egypt into 48 electoral constituencies. In each constituency members of the People's Assembly will be elected both from party lists and from independent candidates. Each constituency will elect one independent member, while the other representatives will be elected from the candidates on the party lists.

Every party will have a special candidate list. No one list can include candidates from more than one party, and the number of candidates must equal the number of People's Assembly members to be elected from that constituency. At least half of the candidates on every party list must be workers and peasants.

The People's Assembly approved the following clause: If an elected member's seat becomes vacant before the end of his tenure, the election to fill that seat will be conducted in the same manner in which the original member was elected. If that member was elected through a party list, candidacies will be restricted to the parties represented in the People's Assembly, and voting

will be for electoral lists. The list which receives the greatest number of valid votes will be declared the winner.

The People's Assembly also approved the following clause: No one may run for election within a party list and independently at the same time, in either one or more constituencies. Such a candidate will be considered independent.

The People's Assembly approved the bill submitted by member Kamal al-Shadhili, and the session adjourned until 10 January 1987.

Opposition Rejects Bill

NC301934 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA) — Councillor Mumtaz Nassar, leader of the Neo-Wafd Opposition Group at the People's Assembly; Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the Socialist Labor Party; and Dr Milad Hanna, an independent opposition member, today issued a statement on the withdrawal of the opposition representatives from today's People's Assembly session, during which the assembly approved a bill submitted by member Kamal al-Shadhili, of the NDP, amending the election law.

The parliamentary opposition said in its statement that it rejects the bill because insufficient time was allotted for discussion and because it is not designed to achieve radical reform.

The opposition has decided to send a cable to President Husni Mubarak informing him of its stand.

The parliamentary opposition parties have decided to call on party leaders to adopt appropriate measures regarding the election law issue.

The parties noted that the opposition's withdrawal from the People's Assembly session today represents a statement of its position on this matter.

During a news conference Councillor Mumtaz Nassar announced that he had submitted a proposal — which he submits every year to the People's Assembly — to amend the present election law and return to a system of individual election.

Engineer Ibrahim Shukri pointed out that when the Constitution was written, its authors had only a system of individual election in mind.

Dr Milad Hanna asserted that President Husni Mubarak is careful to meet with party leaders after all importnat events and stated that the president always urges national concord and dialogue on national issues. He added: In my opinion we have an issue now that requires dialogue. At the same time, the president is preparing to attend the Islamic Conference Organization meeting in Kuwait. This requires that we maintain cohesion, particularly in view of the difficult economic conditions the country is enduring.

Planning Minister Interviewed on Economy

JN291138 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 26 Dec 86 pp 22-25, 66-67

[Interview with Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and international cooperation, by *Al-Musawwar* in Cairo — date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] *Al-Musawwar*: How do you view the elements of the economic crisis? Do you think that this crisis will continue next year? What is our ability to obtain further hard currencies as well as our ability to ease the burden of our debts, including military debts, whether through our discussions with the IMF, the creditors, or the Soviets?

Dr al-Janzuri: I do not think there are more difficult circumstances than those encountered by Egypt in 1986 when the price of a barrel of oil dropped from $28 in December 1985 to $9 in April 1986. We lose $70 million whenever the price of the barrel drops $1. This indicates the size of the deficit. Moreover, the Egyptians' remittances have also dropped in a manner that concerns us and affects our economy, in addition to the decline in tourism revenues as a result of terrorism in the region surrounding us. More than 2 months ago we said that the average price of a barrel of oil will reach $15 by the end of the year after rising to $12. We also said that it will further rise to $18. This was not an individual interpretation but the outcome of calculations between the producer and the consumer. We calculated our plan on the basis of $14 per barrel but did not announce this as we did in January 1982 when the price was $38 per barrel. However, we managed to finance our foreign imports on the basis of $24 per barrel. Thus, the plan allows for all eventualities. Therefore, I expect next year to be better, God willing.

Al-Musawwar: What is the government doing to urge the Egyptian workers to invest their money in Egypt and also urge the Arab capital to come to Egypt?

Dr al-Janzuri: We expect workers to return to Egypt and work here after some time. It is this labor force which will search for production outlets and create a new production capability.

Al-Musawwar: Will there be different interest rates on loans according to the objectives of the plan and to whether these loans are used in production, services, or trade sectors?

Dr al-Janzuri: Yes, there will be different rates because the credit policy should support the objectives of the plan. The current dialogue views the rise in the interest rate as a way of stimulating deposits and not from the perspective of investment cost because the deposit will later become an investment.

Al-Musawwar: Is this because the IMF is interested in foreign trade?

Dr al-Janzuri: They consider the purely financial aspect. For the financial aspect to succeed it should be constrasted with the supply aspect in the process of development. When a decision is made, its influence on other aspects should be noted. Raising the interest rate will affect investment as was the case in the United States when the rate rose to 18 percent in 1980. There was

unemployment because deposits should be invested and not kept in banks. Otherwise, the capital will escape as happened in the United States. We have discussed this matter at length and decided that the short-term credit can be increased and the credit picture or controls should reflect the objectives of development.

Al-Musawwar: Banks are complaining about the ceiling put on credits when there is an actual surplus in liquidity.

Dr al-Janzuri: We have to create the productive activity in which the bank can invest its funds in accordance with the objectives of the plan. Since 1982, production has been proceeding in accordance with the list of priorities.

Al-Musawwar: Has cancellation of the old situation whereby one can import goods without the need to transfer any particular currency had a negative effect on importing the intermediary goods needed by factories?

Dr al-Janzuri: A comparison between the old situation and the customs law issued in August will show that this law is an important achievement concerning the importation of intermediary goods.

Al-Musawwar: To what extent do you expect the IMF prescription to be similar to or different from the Egyptian prescription for the economy?

Dr al-Janzuri: The IMF prescription is almost 95 percent similar to the Egyptian prescription. Having counted everything, including cost of living, we could not accept anything other than the Egyptian prescription. The Egyptian prescription will be carried out, and this confirms that it is not just the prescription of the IMF or the World Bank, but the economic course that should have been followed. We are now trying to implement the Egyptian prescription.

Al-Musawwar: How far have we got with the rescheduling talks?

Dr al-Janzuri: The rescheduling will take place after an agreement is reached with the IMF.

Al-Musawwar: It was assumed that we would pay $3.5 billion annually for 3 years and after that we would pay $900 million annually, which is within the Egyptian economy's ability. For how long were we supposed to pay the $3.5 billion installment after the rescheduling?

Dr al-Janzuri: We are demanding their postponement in full until we acquire new development resources for investment.

Al-Musawwar: Will the rescheduling talks include the principal plus the debt services? It has also been said that an advisory committee will meet to discuss support for the Egyptian economy. How will matters proceed?

Dr al-Janzuri: We are discussing this subject with several countries. However, we must not confuse this issue with the rescheduling talks. The attempts which were made before 1982 were mere consultations.

Al-Musawwar: The talks with the IMF and the World Bank are expected to reduce the burden. But there is another problem; namely, the new census which has shown that the country's population is now 51 million. What are the investments in the new plan?

Dr al-Janzuri: The investments in the new plan amount to 42 billion pounds; that is 8.1 billion pounds annually.

Al-Musawwar: Indeed, we lack the funds to invest in new fields. Where will we get these funds?

Dr al-Janzuri: The local and foreign resources I mentioned earlier are available. But the problem is to invest them in fields that will bring us greater revenue and enable us to cope with the rescheduling of debts during the next 3 years. So the issue now is how to make best use of our resources. The question is: How can we use these resources in light of the objective priorities of the plan? We must ensure greater revenues and higher capabilities: in other words the ability to depend on ourselves year after year and thereby place ourselves in the best position.

Al-Musawwar: Which projects can generate profits throughout the next 3 years?

Dr al-Janzuri: All projects related to agriculture and industry are necessary. Otherwise, imports will increase.

In the agriculture field, fertile land must be cared for and agricultural studies that can double or triple production times must also be supported. All these projects can bring large profits in the next 3 years.

With regard to industry, how can we expand those industries that depend on raw materials that are available in our country? How can we enter other fields such as the cement industry, which has doubled in the past 4 years but still does not meet the needs of the local market?

Al-Musawwar: What is the amount of currency needed for the new investments?

Dr al-Jazuri: The projects that need more foreign currency were left for the 2d and 3d years. Whenever we say 24 billion pounds during 5 years we mean 5 to 5.5 billion each year regardles of prices. 12.5 percent of this annual amount, that is 700 million, is in cash. Therefore, we have no ambition to increase the foreign currency. I would like to say that I was very modest in estimating the size of investments, particularly in curency so as to be able to confront it, and in the financial aids so they will not become an additional burden on the budget.

Al-Musawwar: What is the difference between the past difficult year and this year? What hopes can be people have?

Dr al-Janzuri: We don't say that the problems were solved. We prevent the exacerbation of the problems. The probems which we faced during the past year and a half were outside our control. I would like to tell our people that next year there will be less burden than this year.

A great deal of the eggs, poultry, and margarine needed by the citizens were not available this year. At the beginning of next year the situation will not change. However, the people will feel the crisis has gradually ended by the end of the year. The Egyptian people have suffered a great deal this year, but next year will be better. [passage omitted]

AL-AKHBAR Praises Planned Agreement With IMF

JN301822 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 29 Dec 86 p 1

[Sa'id Sunbul article: "The Agreement and Its Meaning"]

[Text] The agreement Egypt intends to conclude with the IMF has more than one meaning. Under the agreement, expected to be concluded before March, debts and arrears that will accrue against Egypt until mid-1988 will be rescheduled. These sums have been estimated at around $10 billion. The agreement stipulates that Egypt will not pay these sums for a period of 5 years, which is a grace period. Egypt will start paying these sums in 1992 and for the next 5 years.

We must all understand that the rescheduling of our debts does not mean that the debt problem is over. It is an inescapable postponement in view of the anomalous circumstances Egypt has experienced in 1986. This solution was reached after huge efforts.

Some object to the agreement with the IMF. Other object to rescheduling the debts accruing against Egypt on the grounds that this agreement does not solve the debt problems.

What is the alternative?

The agreement Egypt intends to conclude with the IMF is not the first between the two sides and maybe not the last. The rescheduling of Egypt's debts is not an innovation. It is a procedure Egypt adopted in the sixties and seventies.

In 1986, Egypt experienced a sharp drop in its foreign currency revenues as a result of the collapse of oil prices. At the same time, it is being asked to settle debt installments of more than $3 billion.

Faced with this situation, over which it has no control, Egypt found itself dutybound either to settle its debts and suspend imports of food and raw materials that are needed for production and services — which would create crises and bottlenecks we can do without — or to postpone the settlement of its debts and reschedule them and thus avoid crises and bottlenecks. Egypt chose the second alternative.

The agreement Egypt intends to conclude with the IMF will help it come out of the acute crisis it has experienced and avoid bottlenecks it could experience.

What is surprising is that some of those who object to this agreement and try to depict it as the opposite of what it is are the first to raise a hue and cry if a bar of soap is missing from the market or if chicken becomes scarce as a result of the shortage of foreign currency. They are the first to exploit problems without offering any solutions.

The agreement between Egypt and the IMF will not end the problem of the debts that are accruing against Egypt. It only postpones the problem and gives Egypt an opportunity to catch its breath in a calm atmosphere, without bottlenecks. This is a fact that no one can deny.

In view of this new state of affairs, we have more than one duty to perform. First, any talk about an increase in production must be translated from words and slogans into clear programs and policies and then implement them. Second, it is necessary to develop the production base so that Egyptian exports will increase and imports will decrease. This will enable us to settle our dues. In this respect, it is necessary to define clear objectives instead of repeating words and slogans. Third, we must control the volume of foreign debts through clear and austere policies. It is also necessary to put controls on foreign borrowing. Fourth, it is necessary to change the concept of cooperation between us and the outside world. This cooperation must not be restricted to assistance or loans from other countries, but must be based on expanding trade between us and the other countries.

The year 1986 was a difficult and gloomy one. We ask God to make 1987 a happy year that will make the people smile once again.

Communique No 2,508 Details 29-30 Dec Operations

JN301731 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,508 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 30 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our forces inflicted new losses on the aggressors during their operations last night and today as follows:

1. Our brave soldiers in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah continued their combat activities. They dealt effective blows to the enemy assembly points and positions and to its mortar emplacements, inflicting more losses on them. They also achieved the following:

Five vehicles were destroyed and four others were damaged.

Two boats were burned.

One 122-mm gun was destroyed.

Five infantry positions were destroyed and those manning them were killed.

Five enemy personnel were killed.

A number of ammunition depots were burned.

2. In the VII Army Corps sector, our victorious troops continued their heroic confrontation of the enemy. Artillery and tank units directed their fire at the enemy positions opposite them and at other targets, inflicting heavy losses on them and killing and wounding a number of enemy personnel.

3. One of our units from the I Special Army Corps, the God Is Great Forces, confronted an enemy patrol which was trying to approach its positions and forced it to flee, inflicting casualties. Other units in the same sector dealt effective artillery and mortar fire to the enemy positions and assembly points, killing two enemy soldiers, destroying a number of infantry positions, and setting one ammunition dump on fire.

4. In the II Army Corps central sector, one enemy soldier was killed, one vehicle was damaged, and one infantry position was destroyed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 30 December 1986

Defense Minister Holds News Conference

JN302050 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
2000 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, held a news conference this evening attended by correspondents of Arab and international newspapers, news agencies, and television networks. During the news conference, he spoke about the details of the Great Day battle waged by the VII and III Army Corps men against the Zionist Iranian enemy.

The defense minister said: The Great Day battle has affirmed the superiority of the Iraqi Armed Forces in terms of combat capability and efficiency and firmness in confronting the aggressors. It also affirmed the Iraqi fighter's belief in the cause which he is defending. He added that the valiant Iraqi Army will not allow the criminal aggressor to gain a foothold on the chaste Iraqi territory. Khayrallah strongly warned that if the criminal enemy continues to shell residential areas of Iraqi cities it will face a violent response at the appropriate time.

At his news conference, the defense minister explained the dimensions of the arms cooperation between the two Zionist entities in Tehran and Tel Aviv on the one hand and the role of world imperialism in this field on the other. He added that Iraq, which called for peace during the first week of the Iranian aggression, still adheres to this principled stand. The deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces earlier explained the details of the recent Iranian aggression against the III and VII Army Corps sectors and the terrible defeat the Zionist Iranian rulers reaped from their aggressive attempts to encroach on Iraqi territory and its great people.

The news conference was attended by the chief of the Political Guidance Department at the Defense Ministry, a number of high-ranking officers, and the chief editors of local newspapers and INA.

Iranian Goal To Occupy Basra

JN300818 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1750 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Hasan al-Kashif dispatch from Baghdad]

[Text] Iraqi Defense Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah held a news conference this evening devoted to the Shatt al-'Arab battle. The Iraqi defense minister said the objective of the Iranian offensive was to occupy Basra. The offensive was carried out along a 40-km front from Al-Qit'ah in the south to (Kut al-Sawadi) in the north, he added. The forces in their first thrust comprised eight divisions and six Khomeyni Guard Brigades supported by intensive artillery fire and a large number of boats. They also sent a large number of frogmen. They succeeded in establishing footholds in many places the first night. However, the quick reply and the steadfastness of the units foiled their thrust. Had they succeeded in attaining their objectives, they would have ended the cooperation between the VII and III Army Corps, controlled Basra from the southern side, occupied all of Al-Faw, then Khowr 'Abdallah, and then moved north toward Basra. Had they carried out their thrust from (Kut al-Sawadi), they would have approached 13 km from Basra. The forces that followed those used in the first thrust were great in number in the hope that the thrust would take place and thus achieve their objectives. The offensive was big in terms of its objectives and the forces used in it. However, it failed.

Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah said: This offensive was aborted because we completed our preparations, laid down the necessary plans, successfully selected the units, prepared the battlefield,

and benefited from the lessons learned in the Al-Faw battle. He added: That is why our reply was quick and the battle was quickly decided in (Al-Shalhati), (Al-Shahiniyah), and Umm al-Rasas. We wiped out the bulk of the attacking forces and inflicted very heavy losses on them on the [Shatt al-'Arab] bank and deep inside their territory despite their successive human waves and their firepower. The battle would have been decisive had they attained their objectives. I expect that they will continue to devote their attention to Basra.

In reply to a question on whether the Iranian efforts to pursue the offensive continue, the Iraqi defense minister said: In the central sector, there are three armored brigades and more than this in the guards and infantry divisions. All of them are ready to attack. Our Air Force deals with the Iranian forces too. The enemy has troop reinforcements and camps in Kermanshah [Bakhtaran]. In any case, we are lying in wait for them.

What about Al-Faw? The Iraqi defense minister said: Al-Faw is Iraqi territory. Its liberatinon is a duty. However, its liberation is subject to balance [al-muwazanah]. Its liberation is certainly only a question of time.

Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah denied Iraq has used chemical weapons. He said the Iranian claim aims to justify their heavy losses and bitter defeat as well as to belittle our capabilities. He added: I wonder why the international organizations do not ask the Iranians the following question before accepting their claims about chemical wepaons: Why did your forces attack Iraqi territory?

The Iraqi Air Force played a big role before and during the battle. How does the deputy commander in chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces assess the performance of the Air Force? He said: The Iraqi Air Force intervenes when the Iranian military preparations are completed. This means that we learned their intentions. This made them hasten their offensive. Our Air Force assumed the responsibility of depriving Iran of its potential. This Air Force still has missions ahead of it to destroy what is left of their potential. The experience of the Air Force has deepened and crystallized. It is carrying out its missions with Iraqi efficiency without any help from any party.

Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah warned Iran by saying: Our aircraft have not raided Iranian cities, but if Iran continues to shell our cities with artillery and missiles, we will raid more than one Iranian city with 100 planes at a time.

On the U.S. and Israeli arms to Iran, Khayrallah said: It is possible that the U.S. arms supplies to Iran will stop, but the Israeli arms supplies to Iran will not stop.

On the sources of Iraqi weapons, Khayrallah said: We receive some hardware and weapons from Egypt when necessary. This constitutes a small part of our needs. Our relations with the USSR and France are excellent and distinguished. We have arms deals with them. There is a maritime agreement with Italy. This agreement has been suspended for reasons known to us as well as them. There is no reason to draw a comparison between the Soviet Union and France if the talk about our relations with Moscow and Paris embarrasses them. We are in fact defending our country and calling for peace without conditions. Therefore, our demands for arms are legitimate. The United States did not provide us with intelligence information. Washington's relationship with Tehran has undermined its credibility and encouraged the Iranian aggressor.

Khayrallah added: Our losses are less than one percent of their losses. Our men's blood is very dear but the homeland is dearer. We have no other option. This is what the Iraqi defense minister said at the conclusion of his news conference, a news conference by a military leader who achieved a great victory in an important but short battle.

Recent Battle Commemorated

JN301810 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (INA) — INA has learned that it has been decided to name the recent battle of the heroic III and VII Army Corps against the Zionist, Khomeyniite aggressors the "Great Day." A decision has also been made to call the great results achieved by the Armed Forces in the epic of the III and VII Army Corps "the victories of the Great Day" to exult these great victories.

President Receives Message From Afghan Leader

JN300637 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1735 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (INA) — RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim received Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Sarwar Wyuresh here this evening. The Afghan official delivered to 'Izzat Ibrahim a written message for President Saddam Husayn from Mohammad Chamkani, acting chairman of the Afghan Revolutionary Council, on bilateral relations and ways to improve them.

Husayn-Mubarak Meeting 'New Move' to Solidarity

JN301100 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
30 Dec 86 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The Aqaba Meeting, Firm Steps"]

[Text] The Aqaba meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency Egyptian President Husni Mubarak constitutes a new move toward rebuilding Arab solidarity and is both a means and an end. Since the collapse of Arab solidarity, Jordanian policy continued to open channels and doors with the various fraternal Arab countries, convinced of the need for dialogue to restore solidarity and revive joint Arab action. Jordanian policy, which clearly understood the reality of Arab action and the cause of its fragmentation and collapse, made admirable steps in dealing with fraternal Egypt in view of its weight and possible role. Jordanian-Egyptian relations have become a clear example for relations between any two Arab countries. They have produced practical, tangible phenomena that make up deep bilateral cooperation in all economic, social, and political activities.

The talks explained that the views of the two fraternal sides, Jordan and Egypt, on the Iraq-Iran war are identical. Both sides support the Iraqi people in their defense of their nation and in their confrontation of Iranian aggression. Moreover, both sides call for ending this war and preventing its escalation. By virtue of their direct relationship to the current conflict in the region, the Jordanian and Egyptian sides believe that the discussion of convening an international conference, on which there is unanimous agreement, has become a discussion of ways to prepare for it. His Majesty King Husayn has affirmed this on several occasions. This was also affirmed during the two leaders' meeting in Aqaba. The two leaders stressed the need to speed up efforts for serving joint Arab aims and for enabling the presently fragmented Arab effort to open wider scopes of action.

The Aqaba meeting reviewed all urgent developments and the methods for future moves. It defined and crystallized the new concept and course of action required until an integrated form is attained and submitted before the forthcoming Islamic summit in Kuwait. Jordan, under His Majesty King Husayn, has always believed that Arab solidarity is both the means and objective, and that clearing the Arab atmosphere is a prerequisite for providing a suitable Arab climate for achieving objectives. Here, Jrodan has always regarded the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative. Jordan firmly affirms that it is not, and will not agree to be, a substitute for the PLO or an agent for the Palestinian people.

Because of Jordan's eagerness to keep Arab moves on the correct course, Jordan refuses to remain the unconcerned bystander, especially regarding what is taking place in the occupied territories. Moreover, it refuses merely to express opinions and issue statements while observing our kinfolk suffer from the occupation's oppression, tyranny, and attempts to obliterate the Arab identity and endanger the historic roots of the Arab people. Since Jordan realizes that the enemies are constantly moving in accordance with their interests and desires, it believes that the Arabs should counter these moves with similar moves to prevent the current flawed situation from further deterioration at our expense while we remain uninitiating and passive recipients. Jordan believes that repeated Egyptian-Jordanian meetings like the Aqaba meeting will sow the seeds of initiative, follow it up, and transfer it to the brothers to encourage them to rally around bilateral Arab action and subsequently promote it into a collective program.

From this stems the importance Jordan and Egypt attach to the forthcoming Islamic summit conference and to their call for an Arab summit to enable the Arab leaders to crystallize a unified Arab stand to contain the challenges and conspiracies facing the nation. A dangerous situation has resulted from the Iraq-Iran war, the bloodshed in Lebanon, the attacks on the Palestinians in their refugee camps, and the continuing aggression in the occupied territories. All of these massive wounds in the bleeding Arab body cannot be remedied except by a unified Arab meeting aimed at building Arab solidarity to face the challenges. The forthcoming Isalmic summit conference is a great opportunity for Arab leaders to adopt a useful, positive stand. These facts prompted Jordan to make its moves prior to the Islamic summit in Kuwait and to pin its hopes on the outcome of this summit.

Israeli Policy Will 'Abort' Peace Efforts

JN311140 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
31 Dec 86 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Peace Efforts and the Constant Israeli Obstacle"]

[Text] The talk about peace is one thing and sincere efforts to achieve it are something else. Exploiting peace efforts to abort it is one thing and accepting the prerequisites for peace is something else. With the end of this year, which witnessed a flood of tragedies for the region's peoples and countries which came as a natural extension for the continuation of the Middle East conflict, foremost of which is the continuing Israeli military occupation of the Arab territories, there is talk about new initiatives and new ideas regarding the issue of peace in the Middle East and a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

An Israeli official said yesterday that Yitzhaq Shamir's Israeli Government is studying new peace proposals on the Middle East. He did not miss the opportunity to express Israel's desire to achieve peace and stability in the region. Naturally, Israel's study of any new peace ideas would not fall outside the framework of the Israeli concept of peace which is based on imposing a de facto situation in the occupied Arab territories and regarding it as part of the so-called land of Israel. This falls within the framework of a series of statements by members of the present Israeli Government and a number of staunch radicals in the Israeli entity considering the West Bank and Gaza Strip a natural extension of the Hebrew state that is devoid of the Arab element. This is the Israeli concept of Arab citizens in these territories: that they are a foreign community on Israeli land.

Any initiative or move that falls outside this Zionist framework of the concept of peace will be a mere political luxury practiced by the Israeli Government to gain more time to entrench its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and expel more citizens until it arrives at the final stage of Judaization. Thus, any Arab or European move to establish a just, comprehensive

peace on the basis of a comprehensive international conference to be attended by all the parties to the conflict, the five member states of the Security Council, and including the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people will crash against the obstacle of Israeli rejection. Israel believes in the imposed solution in accordance with the prerequisites of the Israeli interest and strategy of regional expansion. These moves would also crash against U.S. support for the Israeli stands that reject the idea of an international conference and serious endeavors to achieve peace.

We believe that the peace efforts will remain in a vicious circle if all constructive international efforts do not become more comprehensive and attain a practical formula capable of exerting pressure on the United States and Israel to accept the principle of a peaceful dialogue and negotiations with the framework of the desired international conference. Without this, the Israelis will continue to study the ideas and proposals on peace not to make them succeed or discuss them but to abort them and thrust the issue into new labyrinths and deeper frustration.

Husayn Receives New York's Cardinal O'Connor
JN301608 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1455 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Amman, 30 Dec (PETRA) — This afternoon His Majesty King Husayn received Cardinal O'Connor of New York at Al-Nadwah Palace. His Majesty outlined developments in the Palestinian cause in all its aspects and efforts to promote a just and lasting settlement in the Middle East. King Husayn stressed the need for an international conference on peace in the Middle East, with the participation of all parties to the Arab-Israeli dispute and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. [passage omitted]

Senate Unanimously Approves 1987 State Budget
JN311241 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT
31 Dec 86

[Excerpt] During its session this morning under Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi and the attendance of Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and the ministers, the Senate unanimously approved the state budget draft law for 1987, which was referred to it by the House of Representatives. [passage omitted]

U.S., French Hostages Reportedly To Be Released

NC310619 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] According to some press reports, the Islamic Jihad Organization will free a number of the U.S. and French hostages today or tomorrow, on the occasion of the new year. The Islamic Jihad Organization declared in Beirut yesterday that it intends to release some of the hostages.

Meanwhile, the Revolutionary Justice Organization issued a statement yesterday, containing a series of warnings to French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac [word indistinct] what it described as provocative statements and his complete ignorance of the real identity of the parties that played an active role in releasing the French hostage Aurel Cornea. The statement said that Cornea's release was a goodwill gesture directed toward France as a state rather than toward individuals. To some extent the release was the result of intensive efforts by Iran, Syria, and Algeria. The statement noted that the PLO had played no role in the release of the hostage.

Kidnappers Claim Three Jewish Hostages Executed

HK310016 Hong Kong AFP in English 0006 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] Beirut, Dec 30 (AFP) — Three Lebanese Jewish hostages held for 21 months have been executed, their Lebanese captors said in a statement received by a foreign news agency here Tuesday.

The "Movement for the Oppressed on Earth," Mustad'afin Fil Ard, said it had carried out "God's sentence" on "three spies working for Israeli intelligence".

It identified the three as Yusif Yehouda Benesti, Elie Srur and Henri Men.

The statement said the bodies of the three would be returned to their families only on condition that "Israel put a stop to its exactions in Southern Lebanon, withdrew from the security zone and freed all prisoners held at Khiyam (a prison operated by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army)".

"If these conditions are not met we will execute the other Israeli spies we are holding," the statement said.

Mr. Benesti, 34, kidnapped on May 18 1985, and Mr. Srur, 42, abducted in March 1985, are among six members of the Lebanese Jewish community reported missing from West Beirut since March 1985. However Mr. Men is not on the list.

According to the Jewish community's Supreme Council, seven Lebanese Jews were kidnapped in Lebanon between March and May 1985: Isaac Sassoun, 65, who was the council's chairman, Dr. Elie Hallaq, 50, the deputy chairman, Professor Isaac Tarrab, 70, Salim Jamous, 50, Elie Srur, Yusif Benesti and Haim Chalala Cohen, 39.

The Movement for the Oppressed Earth, which claimed responsibility for all the kidnappings, announced the "execution" of Mr. Chalala Cohen on Christmas Eve 1985. His body was found 48 hours later on the Beirut East-West demarcation line.

Karami Receives Syrian Official, Views Summit

NC281731 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami met in his office in (Karm al-Qillah) this morning with Dr Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali, director of the office of Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Following the meeting, which lasted approximately 1 hour, Karami said:

[Begin recording] I have received Dr Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali, who conveyed to me a message from the Syrian brothers on the results of the Lebanese regime's efforts to hold a fresh [Lebanese-Syrian] summit to seek a solution to our current stalemate. When I noted that the path to B'abda Palace was via the racecourse, we were met with insistence that Damascus should be the road leading to B'abda. This is a matter of indifference to us. What is important is the political effort aimed at finding a plan of reform and salvation, which cannot proceed unless we are consulted. Today's visit falls within this context. We have said that democracy, based on justice and equality, is the solution to this ordeal, and we have been serious throughout the phases of the dialogue, starting in Geneva, Lausanne, Damascus, Bikfayya, and ending in B'abda. Our opinion has never changed.

We are confronted today by mounting pressures such as the camps war and the rising cost of foreign currencies, which has an impact on the people's living conditions. We can no longer allow others to attempt to reach undesirable goals through delaying tactics. We must forge ahead without abandoning gains, needs, or desired reforms. Time is no longer a positive factor. Lebanon's interests are now paramount, and this makes it incumbent upon everyone to clarify his stand as soon as possible and accept the resolutions needed for a quick end to this situation, which affects us all.

I said in the Chamber of Deputies that the dissolution of the militia, handing over of the ports [to the government], and legitimate authorities' reassumption of their duties would lead to recovery of the rights of the state's treasury and the state's assuming its duties to alleviate these pressing, unbearable conditions.

I have said repeatedly that we pray to God that the required summit may take place if this would resolve the crisis. I still maintain this stand and stress to President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil that we are both responsible for the fate of Lebanon and the condition of all Lebanese people. If he chooses the Damascus road for convening the Council of Ministers, and if this choice will secure sovereignty and salvation, we will stand by him and will not oppose him. The president should quickly take a stand that fulfills the hopes and demands of the Lebanese, particularly the nationalists, who after all these sacrifices will accept only a democratic system based on justice and equality.

This is our firm and abiding stand. Every initiative based on equal opportunities for all citizens, from the Presidency of the Republic to the smallest office in this state, must be accepted equally by all sects and faiths in Lebanon.

I was frank in expressing my stand. I hope that the principle adopted in the meeting of the brother Christians when they called for a salvation plan will be approved. At the time of the meeting, newspapers published the principle of rotation among the top three government posts. I accept and endorse this principle and consider it a solution to the current anomalous situation. If Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil believes there is no alternative to accepting these solutions, let him hurry to approve them so the summit conference can lead to the relief everyone anticipates. Thank you. [end recording]

Dany Sham'un Supports Summit With Syria

NC311120 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1015 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] Dany Sham'un, the leader of the National Liberals Party, has affirmed that President Amin al-Jumayyil is exerting every possible effort to resolve the current political crisis by reactivating the Council of Ministers and by reaching an understanding with Damascus on Syria's behavior toward Lebanon. He added: The president has expressed optimism about the flexibility shown by Damascus. We hope that the president is right. We support the [Lebanese-Syrian] summit and the regime's moves in this regard. However, we insist that such a summit be held in Lebanon this time. It must be fruitful if it is to restore the state's authority and produce a timetable for the withdrawal of Syrian troops and all foreign armies from Lebanon.

Sham'un called on Karami to convene the Council of Ministers if he really believes in Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. He said: The Lebanese problem today concerns hungry people and a state suffering from a lack of stability. Syria can contribute to a solution, he added, but it cannot solve the Lebanese crisis.

New Organization Threatens to Strike at Syria

NC311043 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1015 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] A new organization calling itself the Sunnite Islamic Resistance Movement [Harakat al-Muqawamah al-Sunniyah] has been added to the list of numerous liberation movements and revolutionary and national organizations in West Beirut. This new group, whose birth was announced today, will begin its activities in Lebanon and Syria at the beginning of the new year. According to a spokesman for the movement, the Syrian Army has 24 hours to withdraw from Tripoli and Beirut. Otherwise, the zero hour will begin with the destruction of Syrian establishments throughout the world.

An organization known as the National Liberation Units claimed responsibility for the explosions which took place last night in the Shihab and Fakr al-Din barracks and Ard Jallul.

Lebanese Forces Demand Syrian Army Withdrawal

NC301935 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Forces Command Council held a meeting today under Dr Samir Ja'ja', with the participation of all members. Following the meeting, which ended a short while ago, a statement was issued noting that the Lebanese forces both desire and demand the establishment of natural friendly relations between Lebanon and Syria, based on equality and mutual respect for the two countries' independence and territorial integrity. Furthermore, the Lebanese Forces support any contact or summit meeting that will ratify the principles of the 15 January Movement and the concept, unanimously approved by key Lebanese figures and parties, defining the Lebanese peace initiative.

The statement goes on to say that the Lebanese Forces' position on the various occupation forces in Lebanon is clear and unyielding. All armed groups and foreign armies must withdraw from Lebanon without any preconditions. As a result, and on the occasion of talks about a Lebanese-Syrian summit, the Lebanese Forces believe that the agenda for such a summit should include a timetable for the withdrawal of the Syrian Army from Lebanon, since the presence of this army has been illegitimate since August 1982 and since it was asked frankly to withdraw in September 1983. In this regard, the Lebanese Forces demand that the timetable for the Syrian Army's withdrawal also state that the Lebanese Army will assume the positions vacated by the Syrian Army. The Lebanese Army can seek the help of UN forces when necessary.

The Lebanese Forces call on the entire world, particularly the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the Vatican, and the European states to help Lebanon regain its independence and sovereignty. [passage omitted]

The statement notes that the Lebanese Forces' Command Council reviewed the massacres committed by Syrian troops in Tripoli. The Lebanese forces — which have been hurt by the destruction and ruin wrought in Tripoli and by the results of Syria's retaliatory campaign against the sons of the town, despite the fact that they do not share the convictions expressed by certain people in Tripoli — declare that the Syrian military presence in Lebanon has become a pressing military and political problem for the Lebanese and that the only solution is the withdrawal of all Syrian troops in Lebanon. [passage omitted] While strongly condemning the massacres that took place in Tripoli, the Lebanese Forces urge the Lebanese not to succumb to any foreign power, because a free, independent, and sovereign homeland requires sacrifices from all Lebanese. [passage omitted]

Syrians Campaign Against Unification Movement

NC310846 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] According to security reports from the north, Syrian forces are continuing their raids in a search for members and supporters of the Islamic Unification Movement around the Al-Dinniyah hills and Tripoli. The Syrians raided an arms depot in Harat

al-Barraniyah yesterday, confiscating a large amount of weapons and ammunition. This operation came in the wake of a confession by Muhammad al-Ghanduri, a former Islamic Unification Movement official in Al-Qibbah, who was arrested with five of his aides the day before yesterday.

An AFP report has affirmed that the Syrian Army arrested 10 Islamic Unification Movement personnel yesterday. According to the agency, this operation is part of an arrest and mopping up campaign being conducted by the Syrian Army in Tripoli and its suburbs.

Press Comments on Murphy's Upcoming Tour

JN311006 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0528 GMT 31 Dec 86

[From the press review]]

[Text] Under the headline "Murphy's New Tour and the Premeditated Plan," the newspaper *Al-Ba'th* says: The U.S. Administration has forgotten that it is the main cause of the region's pains and problems, and that it has worked and is persistently working for foiling the peace which the world seeks to achieve in a volatile region such as the Middle East. All the U.S. Administration knows in the region is that it is committed to arming Israel, to a strategic alliance with the Zionist military establishment, and to opposing any international efforts which conflict with the Israeli conditions for peace and which urge it to abide by the UN Charter and resolutions.

Through his new tour, Richard Murphy will not be a hero of peace or a messenger of amity, but certainly, he will carry with him the specifications and pillars of the premeditated plan to create a new fait accompli in the Middle East free of any peace prospects. Israel has announced its plan for the new year. It set up programs to establish settlements in the Golan Heights, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. Washington is not only committed to financing and sponsoring these programs, but also to defending them at international forums. Israel has never stopped its threats to wage war against Syria. The United States is committed to transforming the Israeli words into action. This is what makes us believe that Murphy's tour will only carry danger in accordance with the exposed U.S. method.

Concluding, *Al-Ba'th* says: Murphy's tour will face the same end as his previous tours and the tours of the U.S. envoys who preceded him because Washington has prepared its working paper with Israel not with the objective of achieving a just and lasting peace, but of creating atmospheres which would destroy this peace and bring the world closer to the catastrophe of which the generals of Zion and Star Wars dream.

On the same subject, the newspaper *Al-Thawrah* says: The escalation of tension in the region by Washington, London, and Tel Aviv, the threats of aggression, and the practicing of pressures and blackmail indicate that any U.S. move will not be aimed at achieving peace, but a link in a hostile scheme based on U.S. policy toward the Arab nation — a scheme which sincerely expresses this policy. The campaigns of delusion and deception will not be able to conceal this fact.

Peace Council Celebrates World Year of Peace

JN301101 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0515 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Damascus — Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, the national council of the peace partisans movement held a speech rally last night on the occasion of the International Year of Peace, 1986, at the 7 April Hall of the Damascus Ba'th Party branch. Comrade Muhammad Jabir Bajbuj, Ba'th Party Nation Command member, WPC deputy chairman, and chairman of the peace partisans council in Syria, represented President al-Asad. Attending the rally were members of the Ba'th Party National Command, some members of the Progressive National Front Central Command, some members of the Ba'th Party Central Committee, the secretaries of the Ba'th Party Damascus and University of Damascus branches, a number of chairmen and members of the executive bureaus of popular organizations and trade unions, some of the People's Assembly members, a number of the leaders of the Palestinian revolution factions, the assistant minister of tourism, members of the diplomatic corps of Arab and friendly states in Syria, and a large crowd of citizens.

President al-Asad's representative, Comrade Muhammad Jabir Bajbuj, delivered the Ba'th Party and peace partisans council speech. He said that this rally confirms our firm commitment to pursue the struggle for the objectives of a just peace, liberation, progress, and a free and honorable life for our Arab people, led by Hafiz al-Asad, the secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. He added: Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad has expressed more than once our Arab people's will and adherence to peace and liberation, through his announcement and confirmation that Syria stands against the arms race.

Comrade Bajbuj expressed Syria's support for the USSR's proposals and initiatives to save mankind from nuclear destruction and to achieve detente in international relations. Bajbuj added: Under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its Secretary General Comrade Struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria adopts a national and pan-Arab course hostile to imperialism and Zionism and their schemes to impose hegemony over our region. He stressed that Syria's struggle to liberate all occupied Arab territories and to restore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights constitutes an important contribution to world peace. He said that only by achieving this can peace be realized in the region.

Bajbuj said: The just struggle being waged by Syria, the fortress of Arab steadfastness, loftiness, and pride, is supported by all the progressive and nationalist Arab and world strugglers. He stressed that Al-Asad's Syria will continue to be in the trench of steadfastness and confrontation, and that it will continue its struggle to foil Israel's hostile and expansionist policy, which is supported by the United States. Comrade Bajbuj said that the rancor of imperialism and Zionism is centered on Syria, and that this explains the hysterical campaigns against it at a time when the world knows that terrorism constitutes official policy for the United States and the Zionist entity. Comrade Bajbuj urged the international community to adopt President al-Asad's proposal on forming an international committee on this issue.

Speeches were also delivered at the rally by representatives for the popular organizations and the Progressive National Front and by Assistant Foreign Minister Diya'allah al-Fattal.

On the occasion of the end of the International Year of Peace, 1986, the participants in the mass rally expressed their deep concern over the world's arms race, the storage of nuclear arms, and the increasing deployment of nuclear missiles in all continents and seas, including the Middle East region. The appeal urged the United States to stop its nuclear tests, cancel its preparations for the Star Wars plan, end the policy of state

terrorism against the peoples who struggle for their liberation, and stop its support for the crimes of the racist hostile regimes in Israel and South Africa.

The appeal states: We express our support for rallying around Syria's national, pan-Arab policy — under Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad, the secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic — a policy represented by rejecting the imperialist U.S.-Zionist policy of aggression, hegemony, and expansion. We view this course as a serious contribution to deterring the war advocates. This course is supported by the struggle of millions of those honest strugglers for a world that is governed by peace and cooperation among its peoples, who have the right to enjoy full sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence, and self-determination.

The appeal also stressed the council's support for President Hafiz al-Asad's call for an international conference to define the nature of terrorism and to differentiate between terrorism and peoples' struggle for liberation in order to foil the imperialist states' attempts to brand peoples' struggles as terrorism.

The participants in the rally stressed their determination to make every new year a year of continuous struggle for the noble objective of preventing the mass suicide of the world peoples; for deterring the imperialist, racist, and Zionist war advocates; for achieving our Arab state's liberation, independence, and unity; and for achieving the independence of all the world peoples on the basis of equality, freedom, the principles of the UN Charter, and human rights.

Peretz Resigns; SHAS To Stay in Coalition

TA311505 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] Interior Minister Yitzhaq Peretz announced from the Knesset podium this afternoon that he had handed a letter to the prime minister resigning his membership in the Cabinet. He read out the letter in which he said he had decided to resign so as not to register Mrs Susan Miller [who was converted to Judaism by reformed rabbis in the United States] as a Jew following the order of the Supreme Court.

I will not assist, Minister Peretz said, in the registering of phony converts as Jews. He said he had been offered ways to circumvent the problem, but noted that the problem should be tackled directly and courageously. Reformed conversion is no conversion but merely a bluff, Peretz said, and in its ruling the Supreme Court was not aware of the dangers inherent in reformed conversions. He called on the government to see the dangers and put an end to them. Peretz added that the Likud had not made good on its promise and had not stepped forward to prevent the matter. Nevertheless, Peretz noted he feels no rancor toward anybody in the government and thanked the prime minister for his cooperation.

Peretz' announcement came in reply to a parliamentary interpellation by Knesset Member Shulamit Aloni who sought to learn when Peretz intends to carry out the order of the Supreme Court and register Mrs Miller as a Jew. Peretz' resignation from the Cabinet will go into effect within 48 hours.

Peretz' party, SHAS [Sefaradim Shomrey Tora, Torah Observing Sephardis] has announced that it will continue to be part of the coalition and that Deputy Interior Minister Pinhasi and Interior Ministry Director General Der'i will continue to carry out their duties until next week.

Kimche Denies Proposing Iran-Contra Fund Transfer

TA301805 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Interview with former Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami on *The New York Times* report that Colonel North told Attorney General Meese that Kimche proposed the transfer of funds from the Iran arms deal to the Nicaraguan rebels; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Kimche] First of all, I, of course, categorically deny the claim. It is really quite ridiculous. All in all I met with Oliver North twice: The first time we had lunch in Washington together with another person, and we did not discuss the issue of the contras at all — the subject did not come up at all. The second time, he came to London as part of a group, and again we did not hold a private meeting. The issue is really ridiculous. North is possibly trying to pass the blame to someone else. I, like you and the rest of the people of Israel, read about the contra money in the newspaper, and that was the first place I hear about this. Moreover, I must add that it is almost an honor for me to think that someone might say that my word can change the entire U.S. policy, that is as if to say that U.S. policy adapst to whatever I recommend or advise. I could almost say this was an honor. However, in general it is ridiculous and nonsense, and not serious. I, of course, categorically deny North's remarks.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you have any idea why Colonel North is trying to attribute moves or proposals to various Israeli elements?

[Kimche] As I said, I think he is trying to pass the blame — if he really said those things. I am not completely certain that he actually said what he is reported to have said. After all, this is what is written in an American newspaper. If he did say this, then my only explanation is that he panicked somewhat, sought a way to rid himself of the affair, and chose to use an Israeli whom he barely knew. All in all he met me perhaps on two occasions. And this is the reason he did what he did.

[Ben-'Ami] Finally, Mr Kimche, have you still not been asked to answer the questions or to testify before some U.S. body investigating this affair?

[Kimche] No, I have not been approached.

Ministry Calls Report 'Baseless'

TA311145 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1199 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem described as baseless the report in *The New York Times* that claimed that David Kimche had initiated the transfer of funds to the Nicaraguan contras. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami points out that the quote in *The New York Times* was attributed to an anonymous source in Congress and was based on the hearsay testimony of Attorney General Edwin Meese following a talk he had held with Colonel Oliver North.

Officials Express 'Outrage' at Murder of Jews

TA311152 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] Israeli officials in Jerusalem have expressed outrage at the murder of three innocent Jews in Lebanon. The officials said that the murder of the three shows the real face of the terrorist groups in Lebanon.

An underground Shi'ite group in Beirut said earlier this morning that it executed three Lebanese Jews held hostage over the last 2 years. The group, called the Oppressed of the Earth, accused the three of spying for Israel and said their bodies would not be returned unless Israel withdrew from south Lebanon, released all Palestinian and Shi'ite prisoners, and stopped incursions against south Lebanon.

Peres on Syria, Lebanese Christian-PLO Ties

TA301715 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres believes that Syria is currently in a difficult situation and can no longer set the rules of the game in the Middle East. Its attempt to gain control over Lebanon has failed, its economy is in a bitter state, and the European countries are aware of Damascus' role in encouraging terrorism.

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that Mr Peres was talking to reporters in the course of a tour of Zikhron Ya'aqov. He repeated that despite the Lebanese Christians' denial, Israel has conclusive evidence testifying to a growing affinity between the various Christian groups and the PLO.

Tamir Reportedly Joined Mubarak in Al-'Aqabah

TA301106 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 30 Dec 86 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir will meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo today. Mubarak has just ended a series of talks with King Husayn in Al-'Aqabah.

Persistent rumors are spreading among Egyptian diplomatic circles about meetings between Tamir and Jordanian officials in the framework of Foreign Minister Peres' attempts to convene a preparatory committee for an international conference on the Middle East.

One of the Egyptian diplomatic sources went as far as saying that Tamir joined Mubarak on his trip to Al-'Aqabah. However, there is no confirmation of reports about Tamir's contacts with Jordanian officials and his visit to Al-'Aqabah.

Hadashot has learned that Foreign Minister Peres has conveyed through Mubarak a message to Husayn in which he asks the king to agree to send Jordanian representatives of Palestinian origin to the preparatory committee.

King Husayn is still hesitant about this and has not given a final answer. The issue of an international conference was raised in the meetings between Husayn and Mubarak in Al-'Aqabah. The Foreign Ministry is awaiting Husayn's answer, which is expected to come through Mubarak.

Peres intends to travel to Cairo soon for a meeting with Mubarak in order to advance the political process. The U.S. Administration is also preparing to examine the chances for advancing the process by sending Richard Murphy for a tour of the region's capitals. Murphy will visit Israel, Egypt, and Jordan before Shamir goes to Washington in approximately a month.

Contrary to the efforts of the Foreign Ministry to push the political process forward, the Prime Minister's Office is not very enthusiastic. Sources close to Shamir said that the chances of advancing the political process in the near future are slim.

Reports on 'Good' Talks

TA301717 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir today wound up his talks in Cairo. He was presented today with new Egyptian ideas for peace in the Middle East. After a 2-hour meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid, Tamir said the talks were good, but refused to divulge details on the new Egyptian proposals.

Al-Majid, for his part, said that Egypt is interested in an international peace conference but that Israel's position on the matter has not changed. The two parties had agreed on a preparatory committee for the international conference as far back as at the September meeting between Peres and Mubarak. Al-Majid added that work is underway for another Peres visit to Egypt.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has reported that the working sessions were dedicated to an examination of the measures that would allow for the peace process to revive in view of Israel's acceptance of the principle of holding an international conference.

Tamir expressed his satisfaction with the development of bilateral ties, noting that they are taking a normal course.

Summit Possible

TA251321 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador in Israel Muhammad Basyuni has said that a summit meeting between the leaders of Israel and Egypt, Yitzhaq Shamir and Husni Mubarak, should not be ruled out. Speaking to our correspondent Bassam Ja'bar, the Egyptian ambassador said that although it is not cutomary to hold summit meetings at such frequent intervals, and despite the fact that such a meeting was held about 2 months ago, if Mubarak and Shamir needed to confer urgently such a meeting would be held. Basyuni added that the dialogue between the two leaders is currently conducted through an exchange of letters and messages and that this was no secret.

Youths Wounded by IDF Shots; Other Disturbances

TA281129 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Two youths were slightly injured in Ramallah today from shots fired by IDF soldiers while dispersing a demonstration. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that this morning youths blocked off one of the roads leading out of Ramallah. Stones were thrown at security forces that arrived at the site, and a foot chase after the stone throwers ensued. An IDF officer called on the youths to stop, and as they fled he opened fire at them. One of the youths was wounded in his leg and the other in his buttocks.

Our correspondent notes that there were two other cases of disturbances and of Palestinian flags being flown in Qalandiyah and Ramallah. The incidents marked the anniversary of the

foundation of Fatah, which will take place in a few days, as well as the expulsion of *Al-Sha'b* Editor Akhram Haniyah, who left for Geneva this morning.

Millions Spent on Export Plants in Territories
TA250759 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Dec 86 p 4

[Report by Gershom Gorenberg]

[Excerpt] While the political debate on settlement activity focuses on new towns and villages, the government is spending millions on building export-oriented factories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel's free trade pacts with the U.S. and the European Community legally do not apply to goods from Israeli industry in the territories — but the Americans and Europeans appear to be diplomatically turning a blind eye.

Eliyahu Attiya, Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon's adviser on the territories, says he hasn't "run into problems" with exports from Israeli factories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In the meantime, Sharon's ministry is building a string of regional industrial centres in the territories and giving big incentives to entrepreneurs to set up factories there.

"There's more action" under Sharon than under previous ministers, said Attiya, who has been in charge of development in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for 10 years.

The most recent figures the ministry can provide show that it budgeted some $19.5 million for grants to "approved enterprises" in the territories in the first seven months of this year — nearly one- third more than was spent in all of 1985. In April-July this year, the ministry said, it put out $860,000 on developing industrial parks, practically as much as it spent in the previous 12 months.

The new economic programme apparently "won't affect investments in Judaea and Samaria," ministry spokeswoman Haya Peri told *The Jerusalem Post* this week. But she added: "That's the situation now. We'll see what happens when the committees finish their work (on revamping the plan)."

Businessmen who set up approved factories in the territories get ministry grants for up to 39 per cent of their equipment costs, Attiya said. The ministry also provides space in industrial parks at low prices.

Attiya estimated that there are now 300-350 Israeli factories in the territories, "from workshops with two employees to plants with 150 or more." He rattled off examples: One textile plant at the Qarne Shomron industrial park has over 200 workers. At the Barqan centre further east on the Trans-Samaria Highway, over 100 people work in an electronics plant; another factory produces high-fashion eyeglass frames, yet another manufactures car parts.

Attiya said the ministry's goal was to provide jobs for settlers, and most of the 3,000-4,000 workers in the factories were Israelis.

Israel's industrial stake in the territories was continuing to grow, he indicated. [passage omitted]

Large-Scale Plan To Expand Arab W. Bank Towns
TA311130 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 31 Dec 86 p 7

[Report by Nadav Ha'etzni]

[Excerpts] A large-scale plan to expand the territory of 15 West Bank towns entered into advanced stages of implementation this week. By the end of this week approximately 7,000 dunams will be added to Nabulus, while 2 weeks ago the muncipal area of Janin was doubled and is now estimated to be 10,000 dunams.

Knesset members, government elements, and settlement bodies claim that this move is a political one in preparation for the establishment of an infrastructure for unilateral autonomy in the territories. Quiet attempts have been made in recent months to prevent the implementation of the plan; these attempts include approaches to the prime minister, the defense minister, ministers, nd administrative leaders in the territories, but they were unsuc- [passage omitted]

Settlement leaders in the West Bank contend that the authorization of the expansion is aimed at "strangling the Jewish settlements by establishing de facto conditions that will prevent any real expansion of the Jewish infrastructure."

Settlement leader Beni Qatzover told *Hadashot* yesterday: "The planned move will give the Arab municipalities and towns a much greater say, as part of the political aim of transferring as much authority and assets as possible to the Arabs."

Qatzover claims that the move was planned by Rabin and Peres, and through it the Alignment hopes to implement the unilateral autonomy plan under the Likud's very nose. "We are talking here about a policy that significantly contradicts the lines of policy followed up until not so long ago. It is harming everything that until now has been considered the State of Israel's vital interests."

Official sources told *Hadashot* in reaction that "Israel's policy in the territories is not meant to harm Israeli interests; it is aimed at improving the situation of the arab population, which is considered to be the State of Israel's interest. The move is not a politically-orchestrated one, but rather one that is aimed at correcting several historical distortions and which will meet the pressing needs of the municipalities in the territories."

Rabin Comments on Successful Lavi Maiden Flight
TA311315 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] A few minutes ago Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reported to the Knesset plenum on the Lavi's maiden flight. This

is what Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said in the Knesset plenum:

[Begin Rabin recording] I would like to take advantage of the fact that I am standing on the podium here to inform the Knesset members that the first prototype of the Lavi plane successfully took off and landed safely, remaining in the air for approximately 30 minutes. I congratulate Israel Aircraft Industries on this achievement; I congratulate those people who invested the best of their technological ability in the development of the plane.

I would like to add that we are still only at the very start of the process, and facing us are many obstacles in the way of realizing the government's decision to continue the development and production of the Lavi. These take the form of both the many reservations on the part of the United States, which is almost the sole body financing the development of the Lavi, as well as the defense establishment's budgetary capability in light of the increase in labor costs, and the lack of even any assistance to theAircraft Industries to the tune of $120 million, which the United States usually extends to Israel for projects designated for export.

The obstacles are still many, but I have no doubt that the take-off and safe landing of the first test plane marks an important landmark in the development of the Lavi, and marks an impressive achievement for Israeli technology and the people behind it. [end recording]

On Results of Defense Cuts

TA301134 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Dec 86 p 2

[Report by 'Imanu'el Elneqave and Arye Egozi]

[Excerpt] "As a result of the defense budget cuts we have had to ground dozens of planes and hundreds of tanks and to disband several units. In the event of a war the IDF will be smaller on land, at sea, and in the air."

These comments were made by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Bet- She'an yesterday. Answering local industrialists, Rabin added: "The party is over. Because of a $600-million cut we had to dismiss 600 career army personnel and civilians who work for the IDF. At least 5,000 industrial workers have been dismissed in various factories throughout the country because of a decrease in orders from the defense establishment." [passage omitted]

OAU's Oumarou Urges End to Fighting in Chad
NC301812 Paris AFP in English 1715 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Addis Ababa, Dec 30 (AFP) — Organization of African Unity (OAU) Secretary General Ide Oumarou on Tuesday called for an immediate end to the fighting between pro-government and Libyan forces in northern Chad, and said he would be visiting both Tripoli and Ndjamena from Friday in a bid to bring peace. The statement, part of a year-end message by Mr. Oumarou, followed sharp criticism from the French-backed Chadian Government of alleged OAU indifference to the conflict. Both Libya and Chad are members of the pan-African body.

It also came as the current OAU chairman, President Denis Sassou Nguesso of Congo, was in Gabon with Prime Minister Jacques Chirac of France. The two men, and their host President Omar Bongo of Gabon, were expected to discuss the fighting in Chad, which is a former French colony.

In his statement, Mr. Oumarou said that hostilities should end immediately "so that dialogue among Chadians, which has already borne some fruit, will resume." Mr. Oumarou made no reference to French and American support for the Ndjamena government of President Hissein Habre, nor to Libya's direct involvement in the current battles in the far north-west of the country.

France, which has warplanes and about 1,200 troops in Chad to back Mr. Habre, said on Tuesday that it was boosting its military aid. Last week the United States provided emergency military aid worth 15 million dollars to the government forces.

The OAU chief's cautious remarks, which refrained from putting the blame at anyone's door, was seen here as reflecting a desire to mediate in the conflict.

Chad has been a thorn in the flesh of the OAU for many years, long defying a solution in spite of it being the first African country to which an OAU peace-keeping force was dispatched, in 1981. However, the issue has been more or less on the sidelines since June 1982, when President Habre took power in Ndjamena and won recognition by the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement and the OAU.

In other parts of his message, Mr. Oumarou also called for a ceasefire in the Western Sahara conflict, calling on the protagonists — the Polisario Front and Morocco — to work toward a peaceful solution along the lines of OAU and UN efforts. However he made no direct mention of Morocco, which quit the OAU two years ago in protest over the body's admission of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) proclaimed for the territory by the Polisario Front.

Mr. Oumarou also called for increased pressure to end apartheid in South Africa.

In his generally optimistic message, the OAU secretary general hailed the recent resolution of a border dispute between Burkino Faso and Mali through the International Court of Justice, and a thaw in relations between Sierra Leone and Liberia. He said 1987 would be a good year for Africa if the "fighting spirit" and the momentum of international pressures against Pretoria were maintained until jailed anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners were freed, the liberation movements where "legitimized" and Namibia became independent. He also called on Africans to honour commitments made at a special U.N. session in New York in June aimed at restructuring their economies.

ALGIERS

President Bendjedid Addresses Central Committee

LD292256 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] The 17th session of the Central Committee, which opened yesterday under the chairmanship of President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and FLN Secretary General, concluded its work this afternoon.

President Chadli Bendjedid delivered an important speech concluding the work of this session, after the unanimous ratification of the resolutions prepared by committees concerning the activities and program of the party regarding education, vocational training, health, housing, and the economic crisis. A resolution on general policy was ratified.

In his speech concluding the work of the 17th Central Committee session the president analyzed the most important national and international issues, especially during the current stage which is characterized by the effects of the economic crisis on the economies of the Third World. In this connection he pointed out Algeria's efforts to face up to these pressures using all the available national resources and the complete mobilization of activists at all levels within a framework of unity of thought and action in order to guarantee harmony in action.

The president talked about some phenomena that have a negative effect on Algerian youth and contradict the elements of our national character, especially as this part of society is called upon to continue the march toward a better future. The president said this will not happen unless this part of society is immune against all the trends that contradict our Islamic Arab nature and unless it is saturated with our national spirit.

The president stressed that the coming year will be a year of resolve and self-reliance.

The five resolutions ratified at the 17th Central Committee session recorded the great importance attached by Algeria to the mobilization of vital resources in order to consolidate the course of national development. This stems from the importance of the current stage and its need for increased perception. The resolutions stressed the necessity to continue total mobilization in order to strengthen the values of solidarity and cooperation among the various sectors of the people. They recommended consolidating the results achieved, continuing the steady process of reform, implementing the slogan of work and firmness to secure the future, and consolidating efforts to implement the resolutions of the Fourth National Seminar for Development and the resolutions of the Central Committee. This should be done in a proper understanding and committed manner guaranteeing the best use of resources, energies and abilities and good control over economic development and management and planning methods. This will ensure modernization and make it possible to maintain all-round development as well as to face up to the challenges of the international economic crisis and its negative effects on the national economy.

The 17th Central Committee also ratified a resolution on general policy that encompassed the main internal and external lines of Algerian policy.

LIBYA

U.S. Seeking 'Chadian Inferno' To Divert Opinion

LD291951 Tripoli JANA in English 1426 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Tripoli, Al Kanoun 29, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The *Green March* weekly out today has published a commentary entitled 'Why Chad Now."

It says that puppet Egyptian Butrus Ghali [Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs] has paid a visit to Lusaka to propagate what his Western masters have ordered him to say.

The U.S. tottering Black House is also trying in vain to find a way out of its crisis through Chadian inferno to divert the public opinion.

Similarly, the paper adds, the leftist-headed and rightist-bodied French Government is also doing likewise, not to mention the pressure placed on it by U.S. Administration.

To find an answer to this question, the paper continues, we have to ascertain the links of this matter.

After the failure of all hostile acts against Great al-Jamahiriya starting from political pressures, economic sanctions, the direct U.S. NATO aggression accompanied by the psychological warfare, imperialism has now resorted to start the hostilities yet again in Chad, the aim being as follows:

— Provoking Great al-Jamahiriya on its southern borders across Chad.
— Finding a way out of the internal crisis in the imperialist and reactionary states.
— Divert the world public opinion to problems that have been faked up.
— Trying to find out a fabricated justification against Great al-Jamahiriya accusing it of a new charge.

This can be seen in the comment made in Lusaka by Butrus Ghali. It is not a new thing whatsoever.

We know why the puppet Egyptian regime has been poking its nose in this conspiracy. In addition to its role in serving the imperialists' schemes in the region, the visit paid by beggar al-Barik [Mubarak], head of this regime, to Paris and other western capitals and the visit paid by Mitterrand to Egypt aim at achieving this purpose.

The paper points out that any observer will find it easy to see that Egyptian regime is in complicity in this plot to pay for the funds it received during the visit for alms paid by its head to western countries.

The paper stresses that the Chadian problem is purely Chadian. It only concerns the Chadian people. Should a necessity arise to

find an outside solution, the Organization of African Unity is the one quarter to address it.

Neither France nor the U.S. are concerned with the interest of the Chadian people, for they look after their own imperialist interest which contradict that of the Chadian people and Africa. What the imperialist countries are concerned with is the creation of problems in Africa and specifically for Great al-Jamahiriya because it represents a fortress of pride, revolution and African glory.

The paper stresses that despite the impending overthrow of the Egyptian regime at the hands of the Egyptian citizens themselves, this regime by passing its own internal problems and how to find a way out of the swamp of shame it has been waging represented by the capitulationist accords with the Zionists, it still binds itself to the imperialist forces.

The paper concludes that to lay a siege to Great al-Jamahiriya is complete nonsense, for this imperialist wishful thinking cannot be materialized because here in Great al-Jamahiriya the people rule themselves by themselves. It is something beyond the capability of tottering governments. Such a country like Great al-Jamahiriya based on its people is too strong for such governments. It is capable of destroying all their faulty tactics once it enters this place backed by its solid wall.

Egypt Said Supporting Habre

LD270934 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Al-Maghurah, 27 Dec (JANA) — The Foreign Ministry of the Egyptian regime has shed crocodile tears for the agent of America and France, Habre, and his gangs in Ndjamena.

Upon U.S. orders it has issued a statement, quoting Washington, full of slander and lies.

The Egyptian regime's statement has come following Mitterrand's visit to Al-Maqhurah [Cairo] during the last 2 days.

Acheikh Ibn Oumar, the new leader of the legitimate GUNT in Chad, had stressed earlier, however, that forces of the Al-Barik [Mubarak] regime have for some time been supporting the gang of agent Habre in their annihilation war against the citizens of Chad's villages and towns which support the new legitimate GUNT.

Senegal's Diouf Criticized for Chad Interview

LD290920 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] A responsible source at the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has stated the following:

Senegalese President Abdou Diouf has given an interview to the newspaper *Liberation* that was fraught with fallacies and contained an open invitation for the internationalization of the internal conflict in Chad and for the intensification of intervention by France, the United States, and any other party capable of intervening in this country.

Although this interview shows the extent of the organic link and subservience that characterize relations between France and the rulers of its colonies, it affirms that imperialism cannot do without the cheap roles of its agents in covering up its aggressive designs in more than one place on the African Continent.

To set Abdou Diouf and the fallacies he uttered straight, the spokesman of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison wishes to state the following:

1. The interview is a clear manifestation of complete subservience to orders issued by the Elysee Palace in Paris to one of its henchmen, directing him to make statements. The choice of the man and the newspaper was not accidental, for *Liberation* is financed and guided directly by the French Palace of the Republic. As for Abdou Diouf, it suffices to prove his position that his minister of interior and the man responsible for his personal safety who has direct authority over the Senegalese Army is a Frenchman named (Pierre Cologne), who at this very moment holds French nationality. Abdou Diouf can take no decision without his approval.

2. Abdou Diouf was asked to give this interview to express the views of the agent forces of France in Africa.

3. Abdou Diouf has talked of the departure of what he called the Libyan forces in Chad, but he said nothing about the French and U.S. forces of intervention in that country. His position is fraught with fallacies. The presence of 4,000 French soldiers in Senegal does not seem to arouse any concern for him, as he does not care if the French forces were to occupy Chad, Senegal, or the whole of Africa as long as the French military presence on the continent provides security for the agents.

4. In his interview, Abdou Diouf has stated that the time for rhetoric by those concerned with the Chad problem has ended, and that the time for action in Chad has come. But he has forgotten that the time for action seems more pressing in Senegal for the sake of liberating the Senegalese people from French occupation.

5. The interview given by Abdou Diouf has expressed in deed a hostile stand toward the Chadian people and the Libyan people and to the fraternal relations that bind them to the great Senegalese people, a people which on more than one occasion have expressed their rejection of the policy of subservience to France and their determination to liberate the Senegal people, land and resources so that this Muslim country would play its historic role within the continent's struggle against the forces of domination and hegemony.

The statements of Abdou Diouf fall within the framework of the statements made by Butrus Ghali, the state foreign minister of Al-Barik regime, who contrasted the Jamahiriyah's threatening role to the interests of the West today to the role of Carthage in threatening Rome in the past.

Diouf utters fallacies and falsifications just to please his masters, while Ghali instigates the others against a revolution that stands with history in affirming its just causes. However, there is an organic bond in the relations between the two men in regard to the source of orders, for it is the same — whether the headquarters is in the Elysee Palace in Paris or the Black House in Washington or both.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Messages From USSR, SFRY

LD301733 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1120 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Tripoli, 30 Dec (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution received the Soviet ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah [date not specified] who conveyed to the leader a New Year message from CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. This meeting falls within the framework of the revolution leadership and the Supreme Soviet [as received] exchanging views on the current international situation. The brother leader of the revolution also received the Yugoslav ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah. The leader conveyed to him a message for the chairman of the Yugoslav Presidium Council. [title as received]

UK MP's Send Message in Support of Rapprochement

LD301556 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] A number of members of the British House of Commons, in the U.S. stationary aircraft-carrier Britain, sent a message to the brother leader, the text of which follows:

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, On behalf of a group of members of the Parliament, the House of Commons, and members of the Labour Party who are friends of the people of the Great Jamahiriyah, we send our best wishes to you and to the people of the Great Jamahiriyah. We will continue to work for a rapprochement between the British and Libyan peoples, taking into consideration that there are good reasons for a rapprochement between us; but, unfortunately, Thatcher's government is not helping in this rapprochement. Thus, we hope that the Labour Party will return to power in the next general elections in order to achieve this rapprochement. Our hopes are great for 1987. With our best greetings.

Signed by:

Ron Brown, speaker of the House of Commons [title as heard]

Tom Pendry, secretary and member of the House of Commons

MOROCCO

King Hassan Receives Kuwaiti Official

LD250032 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, received this evening at the Royal Palace in Rabat, Mr Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs. He was accompanied by his country's ambassador, Mr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sar'awi.

This audience was also attended by Mr Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

SUDAN

Prime Minister Meets Press, Discusses South

EA302110 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Statement by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi at a meeting with Sudanese journalists on 30 December; place not specified — recorded]

[Text] First let me welcome you, brothers, to this meeting, one of our periodic encounters. As usual, we will start with a short introduction and then we will deal with questions and comments, God willing.

The first thing I want to talk about now is the subject of the policy of the government toward the south, the general outlines. I will speak about the new administrative measures which will soon be applied. As you know, the policy of the government has always followed four courses.

The first course is a peaceful solution to the existing conflict. As a result of this a Ministry of Peace was set up. It faced difficulties at first, but now we are strengthening this ministry so that it can actually undertake large-scale activities from the start of the New Year. We will also set up a national committee to act as a think tank for the preparation of a national constitutional conference. The ministry will also be supported, so that it can discharge its duties to peace and help prepare for the national constitutional conference.

The second course is security. The situation in relation to the Sudanese Armed Forces is this: The Armed Forces have taken the initiative and have moved on to the offensive. The ultimate purpose of this is not to solve the problem in a conclusive military way but to deny the aggressors themselves an opportunity to impose a military solution. They are to be deprived of all positions acquired during the defunct regime. During the defunct regime they succeeded in disrupting lines of communication in the south. They also succeeded in occupying some positions.

All these matters are now under review. The Armed Forces have been able to achieve success. Their work is appreciated. They have opened up all channels of communication to ensure their safety. Incidentally, we must admit that during the dictatorial regime the aggressors pursued an enlightened policy. Their sole concern was to attack military targets. They used to be concerned about the truth in reporting their attacks. But now they have slipped very badly. They concentrate their attention, really, on attacking civilian areas in a clearly terroristic manner. Also, their pronouncements have become largely false.

As you know, they recently announced that the barges that went to Malakal for relief purposes were attacked and sunk. The truth is quite the opposite. The barges arrived safely, God be praised. A news team went to Kosti to record the event. Like others, this channel of communication is now being used to connect this part of Sudan to that part of Sudan. The important thing is that the Armed Forces have succeeded in ensuring the security of these channels and now the air, river, and land routes, as well as the railways, have resumed operation.

We are pursuing, as I have said, a security course whose purpose is to open up further channels and the purpose is to ensure the security of areas of production. This has already been achieved. The purpose is also to attack positions which the aggressive movement managed to exploit at a time when the authorities were not concerned.

As I have said, it is part of the government's duty to provide security for its citizens. But this is no substitute for what we believe is really needed, that is, a peaceful settlement of the problem. However, it is a duty that must be discharged. The Armed Forces — God be praised — are performing with high efficiency and will continue to discharge their duty.

The third course is diplomatic. [Words indistinct] to expose the aggression as terrorist aggression, linked to outsiders, and to stress that all the issues related to this — the relationship between peoples of different religions, different customs — can be peacefully resolved in Sudan.

It is true that in the past there were two obstacles. There was the view of many northerners that many southerners wanted to secede. There was also the view of many southerners that many northerners wanted to force a different religion or a different culture or civilization on them. These two viewpoints were the reasons behind much misunderstanding and made it impossible to achieve understanding.

But now these two reasons have disappeared completely. There is no one in the north, as far as I know — even among the most diehard elements — there is no one today who does not accept that there is a multireligion society in Sudan. What is needed is that those of the dominant faith who want to apply the principles of their religion should consider carefully the fact that as far as citizenship is concerned, there should be equality, and that as far as human and (?religious) rights are concerned, others should be able to exercise all their rights. This deals with one of the obstacles.

The other obstacle is the separatist question. I can stress that the southern brothers, with the different parties and objectives that they now have, mostly support the unity of Sudan. So, there is no real obstacle. All that is required is to sit down and solve the problem. Anyway at the diplomatic level, what we want to stress and clarify, is that Sudan now has a democratic system, a system that respects human rights and the freedom and rights of religions. It is ready to solve its development problems. It considers this war to be an imported war with foreign motives. And if there is any Sudanese motivation involved, it is the motivation of those who want to force political ideas on their homeland.

This should be prohibited because (?all of us), all of us should realize that there is no room to impose any opinion on others by force, whether that opinion be prominent or correct. If we, the people of Sudan, cannot all agree on this principle, that noone should be allowed to impose his opinions, no matter how correct, by force, then we have failed in our democratic experience. This is the third course.

The fourth course is that related to the administration of the south. From the transitional period we inherited an administration in the south that was based on an emergency and transient factors. As a result of discussions we have now initiated the following reforms.

The first reform is that as regards our people in the southern regions we should concentrate our (?efforts) on naturalization and providing them with a comfortable living and services. That is why, when we met the governors, we discussed education, health, food, and all that is related to life in order to safeguard the continued activity of those of them at work and to repair the institutions, in order to open more of them [passage indistinct].

Dialogue With SPLM 'Possible'

JN311012 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 31 (SUNA) — Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi announced here that he had just received new ideas from the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) which seems to show signs that fresh development on the resumption of dialogue between the government and SPLM may be possible once more.

He said during the meeting with Sudanese pressmen leaders yesterday that he had not had the chance to look closely at the new ideas but that the government will study and react to them.

Al-Mahdi said the government had given a series of guidelines to all those who were interested in contacts with the SPLM and that if the guidelines were adhered to and new positive signs came to light, the government would respond to them in similar veins.

Legal Issues, Iran-Iraq Plan Topics at Meeting

JN301937 Khartoum SUNA in English 1756 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Dec (SUNA) — The government will activate its move towards achieving peace and convening the proposed constitutional conference that will review the current problems of the country among them the southern Sudan cause Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi announced Tuesday.

Al-Mahdi, who held a press conference here today said all the concerned bodies were invited to take part in the national committee of the constitutional conference affairs.

The prime minister stressed the necessity of the participation of the opposition group in the said conference.

Meanwhile, Al-Mahdi announced that a high national economic planning council will be formed to set-up a plan for economic development.

The committee revising the laws that will substitute Sept. sharia laws imposed by ousted President Numayri, has finalized its mission and the new laws will be presented before the public for discussion, Al-Mahdi said.

On the Iraqi-Iranian war Al-Mahdi confirmed the Iranian pledge to study the proposals, for ending war which he presented to the Iranian authorities during his visit to Iran two weks ago.

Coordination Council To Be Set Up in South

JN301909 Khartoum SUNA in English 1753 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Dec (SUNA) — Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi announced Tuesday that the government will set-up a high coordination council in the southern Sudan headed by an independent southerner.

Al-Mahdi said in a press statement here today the council will include three independent southern persons in addition to the governors of the three regions of southern Sudan, which he said will be chosen from the southern Sudan political parties.

The government decision in this matter is based on the understanding that all the decisions concerning southern Sudan administration taken during the defunct regime were illegal. In addition to Equatorial MPS rejection, the High Executive Council. [as received]

Al-Mahdi today discussed with the southern Sudan Political Alliance leader, a representative of Sudanese African Congress, the leader of Sudan National Party, representative of the National Unionist Party the current national issues.

Congress Rejects Council

JN301143 Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 30 Dec 86

(Text) Khartoum, Dec. 30 (SUNA) — The Sudanese African Congress Party refused the government determination to form a high coordinatory council for the administration in southern Sudan. In a statement it issued yesterday the party described this measure as illegal and violates the articles of Addis Ababa accord for 1972 and the transitional constitution for 1985. The party will not participate in the said council, the statement said. It to be recalled that other southern parties called for the formation of the said council.

Joint Ministerial Meeting With Libya Postponed

JN301137 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 30 (SUNA) The meetings of the joint Sudanese-Libyan ministerial committee, scheduled to begin here today, have been postponed for Jan. 6.

The Libyan delegation, which will be chaired by the Libyan Popular Committee's secretary for foreign affairs, is due to arrive here Jan. 5.

The meeting is expected to focus on the developing bilateral relations, assessment of what had been agreed upon during the committee's last meeting in Tripoli, working out a future cooperation programme between the two countries and removal of obstacles impeding the implementation of the agreements concluded by the two sides.

Minister Makes Statement on Return From Egypt

JN301948 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 30, — Foreign Minister al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi said that he had met during his visit to Egypt with President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid with whom he discussed bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

In a press statement on his return from Cairo today Al-Hindi said that the expected visit of Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to Egypt will put an end to speculations on the Sudanese-Egyptian relations.

Al-Hindi said the Egyptian president has expressed readiness to contact the Ethiopian Government to discuss the rebellion in southern Sudan. This would probably take place during the expected visit of Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam to Egypt, Al-Hindi added.

Al-Hindi said the Egyptian president had expressed discontent over Ethiopia's repeated aggression against Sudan referring to the strategic threat that the rebellion in Southern Sudan poses both to Egypt and Sudan.

On the other hand Al-Hindi held meetings with the Arab foreign ministers in the margin of the Arab League emergency meeting held in Tunisia on Dec. 22.

Omdurman Denies Radio SPLA's Reports on Fighting

EA282232 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1606 GMT 28 Dec 86

[From the "People's Armed Forces Program"]

[Text] Brothers, comrades in arms: The puppet John Garang's radio continues unashamedly to repeat shameful lies. It thinks that the citizens still believe its fabrications. Thus it is demonstrating its complete ignorance and its remoteness from the citizens who have suffered from its inhuman practices. They have been the target of its malicious and ferocious practices.

The citizen knows full well where his interests lie. He knows who are the ones standing by his side in his suffering, protecting him and sharing their food with him, however meager it may be. They are the members of our brave Armed Forces who stand by the side of their unarmed and innocent people, defending them and sacrificing their lives for them.

The misguided and lying puppet rebel radio, run by Abyssinian intelligence, thinks that the citizens in the south still open their ears to their lies, not realizing that those ears have been closed for a long time. Everyone knows the truth. Everyone knows the extent of the deception practiced by the traitor John Garang through his puppet radio.

Recently this exhausted radio has begun claiming imaginary victories. This is the style of incapacitated people. Their cowardly and dispirited forces have been defeated by our advancing Armed Forces in all the regions of the south. their foolish commanders have now seen fit to continue fighting through fabricated military communiques. This weapon, in turn, has also lost its effectiveness and credibility. This has made all the people turn away from it. When they do listen to it, they listen to amuse themselves and to show their derision.

The latest of these silly allegations was dated 27 December. The treacherous and mercenary radio claimed that they had killed Captain Munir Bastan Abduh, Sergeant 'Abd al-Mutal, and eight others at (Lukunah) station. That was mere falsehood. Capt Munir Bastan Abduh has personally denied the allegation. He expressed surprise at the insolence, which has become a constant attribute of the rebels' radio. He said that he was all right and that all the forces that were with him were all right. The truth of the matter, which the rebel radio did not dare mention, was that a unit of the (Lukunah) forces, under the command of Capt Munir Bastan Abduh, attacked the island of (Yei Deng), after receiving information that a rebel force was in [word indistinct]. The attack was a success, and our forces managed to kill Lieutenant Samuel and eight others. As a result of that attack six soldiers joined our forces in Bentiu the very next day.

That was the information the radio of the traitors wanted to broadcast to its collapsing and fragmented forces in a vain attempt to raise the morale of fighters whose morale has fallen to the lowest levels. But, impossible. All the lies were exposed. The condition of their forces is plain for all to see. They have become looting and plundering gangs, and not one of their leaders, who are enjoying themselves in the paradise of Ethiopia, can allege to have any control over them. The reins of power have slipped from their grasp and they have become totally confused.

Tomorrow God will witness the fall of that desperate movement which has never served the purposes of any but the enemies of the homeland and humanity, freedom and democracy. God is great. Victory to our courageous Armed Forces, and failure and shame to Garang's forces and their unsuccessful radio!

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR Forces Kill 13 Moroccan Soldiers

LD281308 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] The Saharan Democratic Arab Republic's Information Ministry released a statement this morning that included the results of attacks carried out by units of the Saharan National Liberation Army against the royal Moroccan forces. Saharan revolutionaries carried out two attacks against the royal forces stationed in [words indistinct] region, killing 13 Moroccan soldiers and wounding others, destroying military machinery and trenches, and capturing arms and ammunition.

CHAD

Radio Says USSR 'Military Experts' Aiding Libya

AB310934 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Excerpt] After its massive material and diplomatic support to Libya in its military incursion in Chad, the USSR is now sending military experts to the northern part of our country. Faced with the successive setbacks suffered by the Libyan colonel and his men, Moscow has now decided to send military experts (?to train) the Libyan Army. These experts are specialized notably in the areas of heavy artillery, aviation, and counterinsurgency warfare, areas where the Libyan people [words indistinct]. The experts are based at Aouzou in Chadian territory, (?which serves) as the logistic base for the Libyan Army, and at Ouaddi-Doum, which the Libyans have transformed into a 400-meter-long [figure as heard] airstrip to enable all types of planes to land there.

These reports once again confirm the Soviet-Libyan plot against Chad (?to turn it into) a satellite of the Soviet Union maintained in Africa by Libya. It equally proves Tripoli's inability to face alone the war it had thought would be easy. Techniques imported from Afghanistan by the Red Army [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

CDR Accuses Niger of Aiding Ndjamena Troops

AB301631 Paris AFP in French 1517 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Paris, 30 Dec (AFP) — The Revolutionary Democratic Council (CDR), a Chadian faction of the GUNT led by Acheikh Ibn Oumar, on Tuesday accused Niger of allowing the Chadian Government column sent to aid in the rescue of Chadian fighters in the Tibesti area to transit through its territory.

In a communique issued in Paris, the CDR says such "complacency" may seriously hamper "all the efforts made over the past 4 years by the OAU and some friendly countries to bring peace back to Chad."

"In the face of this complacency of President Seyni Kountche's government," the communique adds, "the CDR will not remain indifferent."

Monday in Niamey, Kountche made it a point to reaffirm to the French and Libyan ambassadors his country's neutrality in the current conflict. He pointed out that no air or land transit facility had been or would be offered to either side in the conflict.

Chadian circles in Paris said on Tuesday that willingly or unwillingly, Niger was involved in this conflict. The Libyans, they said, have been using the Toumo base, which they have been illegally occupying for many years in northern Niger.

According to these circles, a Niger vehicle recently blew up on a Libyan mine on the Toumo-Seguedine-Zouar road.

Four Foreign Journalists Expelled 30 Dec

AU301437 Paris AFP in English 1429 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Paris, Dec 30 (AFP) — Four foreign journalists who had arrived in Chad to cover the fighting between Libyan and Chadian forces in the far north of the country were expelled on Tuesday.

The four worked for the French newspapers *Le Monde* and *Le Figaro*, for *Agence France-Presse* and for REUTER news agency. With the exception of the REUTER correspondent, who came to Chad on Saturday, they all arrived here on Monday evening.

However another reporter for AFP, who arrived in the country earlier, was allowed to stay.

Ahmad Allam-Mi, the Chadian ambassador in Paris, said the journalists had only tourist visas and had been warned that this would not be enough to grant them access to Chad.

Last week Chadian authorities announced that foreign journalists would be required to submit all articles to authorities for approval. On Monday authorities refused reporters permission to file articles on the situation in the country.

The refusal followed reports from reliable sources in Paris that Libyan troops had captured the strategic northern town of Zouar from pro-government forces after two weeks of fighting.

Radio Denies Expulsion

AB302028 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Those who listen to foreign radios may have heard this afternoon an erroneous and even fallacious report on the so-called expulsion of foreign journalists from Chadian territory. This afternoon therefore, the foreign media misinformed the national and international public opinion, claiming that the Chadian Government decided yesterday to expel foreign journalists who arrived in Chad. To what journalists are they actually referring? It is true that special correspondents of *Le Figaro*, *Le Monde*, and *Agence France-Presse* arrived at the Ndjamena International Airport last night without regular visas, in violation of Chadian immigration law. And why this clandestine journey, as if these special correspondents had something (?in mind)? Obviously, Chad is a country at war. And overt external aggression is currently threatening the survival, the very existence of our country. Each day, defenseless men, women, and children die from the bullets of the Libyan aggressor. And this, while the so-called civilized nations look on unconcerned. Our country is at war, [words indistinct] we have never surrendered and will never surrender, whatever may be the sacrifices made by our valiant people with each passing day. Our country is attacked daily and openly by an expansionist [words indistinct]. Truly speaking, these journalists (?know of) this Chadian situation. (?Blinded) by the sensationalism that they always seek to draw out of crisis situations, they wanted to enter illegally, we are sorry [words indistinct]. These journalists, many of whom have already

visited our country before, know very well that we have never refused anyone entry into our country, not to a single journalist, not even those who do not have our well-being at heart. So, they should not be surprised or behave as if they have been offended. Chad, in spite of the present trial, remains a land of hospitality and tolerance.

Kuwaiti Muslims Present Aid to War Victims
AB301740 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1330 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Following the appeal made by the Chadian Government to friendly countries and international organizations, a nongovernmental association called the African Agency for Kuwaiti Muslims has responded to this appeal. A delegation of the agency led by Dr (Yasim Muhammad Mhali) arrived this morning by special flight to present 270 bags of rice and 250 packages of medicine and clothes to the people who escaped the Libyan massacre. [passage omitted]

GABON

Bongo Inaugurates Transgabonese Railway
AB301553 Libreville Africa No 1 in French
1230 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Franceville has had a railway since this morning. President Omar Bongo inaugurated the Transgabonese railway, which is over 600 km long, there this morning. The event, which is politically, economically, and socially significant, coincides with the 51st birthday of the Gabonese president and of the Makuku University of Franceville. Members of government attended this ceremony as well as foreign personalities such as Congolese President Sassou-Nguesso and French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac. [passage omitted]

BURKINA FASO

Bassole Meets Diplomatic Corps, Leaves for Ghana

AB301614 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Our minister of external relations and cooperation, Comrade Leandre Bassole, received members of the diplomatic corps in his office yesterday. The aim of this meeting was to reiterate Burkina Faso's promise to respect the international Court order on the unfortunate border dispute that resulted in war between Mali and our country. After thanking members of the diplomatic corps who accepted his invitation to the meeting in spite of their busy schedules, Comrade Leandre Bassole said that while promising to keep their word, the Burkinabe authorities would ensure that the border will never again serve as a source of tension and even less so a source of conflict between Mali and Burkina Faso. He added that our country will work hard to ensure that this border does not constitute a sort of Berlin wall between the brotherly people of Mali and Burkina Faso. He concluded by wishing the members of the diplomatic corps a happy New Year.

The dean of the diplomatic corps, the Ghanaian ambassador, praised on behalf of his counterparts the maturity and wisdom of the Malian and Burkinabe authorities following the International Court order, and he expressed satisfaction with the sincere determination of both countries to strive to maintain peace. The Ghanaian ambassador concluded by presenting the best wishes of the entire diplomatic corps to Comrade Minister Leandre Bassole.

Appropriate answers were given to various questions put by representatives of the diplomatic corps. After the meeting, the comrade minister of external relations and cooperation led a 50-man delegation to Accra to participate in the 5th anniversary celebrations of the Ghanaian revolution.

GHANA

Libyan Group Arrives for 31 Dec Anniversary

AB301548 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] A high-powered Libyan delegation, led by the secretary of the general people's committee for communication and maritime transport, Mr Mubarak al-Shamikh, arrived in Accra last night to take part in the 31 December anniversary celebration. The 65-man strong team was met on arrival by the attorney general and secretary for justice, Mr G.E.K. Aikins. Speaking to newsmen later, Mr al-Shamikh noted that both the Ghanaian and the Al-Fateh revolutions are identical in their objectives. This is because the leaders of both revolutions are struggling to help emancipate the African from the shackles of colonialism. He said the presence of the delegation in Accra is to show the commitment of Libyans to the goals of the Ghanaian revolution. With the victories being chalked by the two revolutions, Mr al-Shamikh is optimistic that it will not be long for other victories against oppression to be won.

IVORY COAST

Congolese Minister, Houphouet Discuss Cooperation

AB302156 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Excerpts] President Felix Houphouet-Boigny today received an emissary from the Congolese president and current OAU chairman, Denis Sassou-Nguesso. He is Antoine Ndinga-Oba, Congolese minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, who brought a message from President Sassou-Nguesso to President Houphouet-Boigny. The audience took place in the presence of the Defense Minister Jean Konan Banny and Congo's consul in Ivory Coast, Dr Bouboutou Mbemba.

The Congolese foreign minister, who left for Accra, Ghana, this very afternoon did not disclose the contents of the message he brought to the president. We discussed the privileged bonds between our two countries as well as current issues in Africa, particularly problems relating to peace, he said.

[Begin Ndinga-Oba recording] Only about 20 or 25 minutes after my arrival from Brazzaville by a coastal flight, I was received by the president, a meeting that should be regarded by you journalists as symbolic. As for the kind of relations existing between the Congolese president and current OAU chairman and President Houphouet-Boigny, they are excellent and are consistent with the friendship existing between the two leaders and the two peoples. [passage omitted] We discussed the cooperation and friendship existing between the two countries. [passage omitted] President Houphouet-Boginy asked me to convey his advice and suggestions to his younger brother, President Denis Sassou-Nguesso who, with his support, has assumed responsibility for the OAU. [end recording]

MALI

National Assembly Approves 1987 Budget

AB301230 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Excerpts] The 1987 budget was adopted this morning by the National Assembly. The state budget for 1987, with equal revenues and expenditures, stands at 78.6 billion CFA francs. During a plenary session at the assembly palace at 1000, the deputies also studied three other draft bills of law. [passage omitted]

Minister of Finance and Commerce Mr Dianka Kaba Diakite presented two draft bills to the house: one concerning the creation of the National Budget Directorate and the other concerning the adoption of the 1987 budget. The government as well as the assemblymen agreed on the creation of the National Budget Directorate, which is indispensable for a more efficient management and follow-up of the budget implementation. The draft budget for 1987, which was very important for this session, was the last item on the agenda and was examined in minute detail. While presenting the budget, the minister of finance enumerated five essential characteristics. The budget, which falls under a new administrative, economic, and functional framework

and is worth 78.6 million CFA francs, tends toward a lessening of personnel expenditures, frees the initiatives of businessmen, and, finally, orientates their activities toward a grassroots development.

To better evaluate the budget and weigh its ins and outs, the assemblymen asked numerous questions which reflect their legitimate concerns in the face of the financial problems confronting our budget and their present and future solutions. Hence, questions relating to the financial ties between our country and the IMF, the slump in the sale of cotton and the resulting loss of revenue to the state, the solving of the problem of salaries, the recovery of taxes and duties, savings, and so forth were asked. To all these questions the minister replied that the citizens must impose restrictions on themselves, that they must collaborate to check this situation. He said the party and the government are busy working toward finding workable solutions. Already steps have been taken to allocate capital to the interior of the country and to encourage nationals to invest in fixed enterprises.

There are problems, said the minister, but rigid measures will be taken to get out of the impasse, obviously with the collaboration of everybody, because we are all responsible.

The government is in agreement regarding the problem of salaries, he said, and is doing the best it can to resolve it.

NIGERIA

NNPC To Renegotiate Oil Prices With Customers

AB301836 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] As from the 1st of February next year, the NNPC [Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation] will apply only official selling prices in its crude oil sales contracts. And from that date, too, the corporation will phase out the net back-valuation system in crude oil transactions. This was announced in Lagos today by the managing director of the corporation, Mr Alex Adamu. He explained that the decision was taken by the Federal Government. He said this is sequel to the agreement reached at the last meeting of OPEC oil ministers in Geneva. The ministers decided at that meeting to cut oil production and set the recent OPEC price at $18 per barrel. In view of this development, the NNPC has asked its customers to renegotiate their existing contracts in order to substitute fixed prices for the net back prices.

Nigeria's bonny light crude will sell for $18.92 per barrel with effect from the 1st of February next year.

SIERRA LEONE

Accra Reports Momoh Releases Coup Plotters

AB310855 Accra Domestic Service in English
2100 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] President Joseph Momoh of Sierra Leone has ordered the release from jail of nine people serving life sentences for plotting against the government of his predecessor, Mr Siaka Stevens, in 1974. President Momoh also ordered the release of 18 prisoners serving terms of up to 15 years for offences including manslaughter and robbery.

In April 1974, a bomb exploded in the home of Sierra Leone's finance minister. Eight people, including ministers Mohammed Forna and Ibrahim Bash-Taqi, were hanged for treason and others were jailed. They planned to kill President Stevens and senior government ministers.

President Momoh, who at the time was the head of the armed forces, replaced Stevens in a peaceful handover in November last year.

ANGOLA

FAPLA Notes December Actions Against UNITA

MB310635 Dakar PANA in French 1715 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Lubango, Angola 30 Dec (ANGOP-PANA) — The Angolan Armed Forces, FAPLA, killed 137 UNITA bandits, captured 16 others, and released 345 civilians from the bandits' yoke during military operations in Huila, Namibe, and Cunene Provinces in December. According to Major Jonatao Augusto Moreira, general staff chief of the 5th political-military region, speaking to *O Jornal de Angola*, the FAPLA combatants captured 38 cartridges for light weapons, 52 81-mm mortar shells, 1 60-mm mortar, 41 light weapons, 5 hand grenades, 1 antipersonnel mine, 24 60-mm grenades, and 1 pistol.

During the same period, he said, more than 630 huts used by the counterrevolutionaries as shelters were destroyed and 220 head of cattle were retrieved. Major Jonatao Moreira noted that the counterrevolutionaries' actions are characterized by killing defenseless people, stealing their goods, and destroying their houses.

He pointed out that, after heavy losses inflicted on UNITA bandits by FAPLA combatants, logistic and material support from Pretoria for the puppets has increased. He added that combined South African troops and their Angolan lackeys are still in the regions of Chivemba, Mupa, and Evale in Cunene province. He also said that on 19 December a Mercedes Benz military truck belonging to the counterrevolutionaries and a quantity of war materiel were seized in Chivemba in Cunene Province.

137 UNITA Reported Killed

AU310753 Paris AFP in English 0749 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] Lisbon, Dec 31 (AFP) — Angolan Government forces killed 137 rebels of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) in search operations in three southern provinces in December, the official ANGOP news agency reported, monitored here.

The dispatch, quoting military authorities, said government forces had freed 345 civilians living under UNITA control and destroyed 630 rebel hideouts.

The operations covered the provinces of Huila, Cunene and Namibe, the agency said.

ANGOP added that Pretoria had recently stepped up military assistance to UNITA, and joint UNITA-South African forces were still deployed in the Chivemba, Mupa and Evale districts of Cunene province.

BOTSWANA

Train Service To Continue Under Zimbabwe Railways

MB301227 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1110 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] The Ministry of Works, Transport, and Communications has said that owing to unforseen circumstances involving high-level consultations between the Governments of Botswana and Zimbabwe on 22 December 1986, it has been decided by the two governments that train services in Botswana will, until further notice, continue to be part of the National Railways of Zimbabwe. In a statement today, the ministry said, however, in order to decentralize the trian control system, Botswana, which has hitherto been part of the southern area, with area headquaters in Bulawayo, is now a separate area with its area headquaters in Gaborone. This has led to the setting up of a (?train) control office in Gaborone. [words indistinct] which will have to be changed to take account of the traffic flow within Botswana. Botswana was due to take over a section of the railways passing through it from Zimbabwe on 1 January.

LESOTHO

Detainees Reportedly Released by Authorities

MB310808 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] Political sources in Maseru have said six people detained by Lesotho's military rulers last week have been freed. They told REUTER the six comprise the country's former ambassador to China, Mr Chaka Ntsane, and five youth followers of former Premier Chief Leabua Jonathan, who was toppled in a bloodless coup by right-wing military officers last january. Mr Ntsane, a former head of the civil service, was appointed to a diplomatic post last February but recalled and then sacked 6 weeks ago. He is a son-in-law of Jonathan. They added that Jonathan's five supporters had apparently been found with communications equipment which was authorized for use only by the country's armed forces.

MOZAMBIQUE

Chissano Says Difficulties Expected in 1987

MB301858 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1730 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Speech by President Joaquim Chissano at an end of year function held in Maputo on 30 December — recorded]

[Text] According to tradition we are gathered here to mark the end of the year and the beginning of yet another one. For the first time President Samora Moises Machel is not physically present with us. His death in the year that is about to end is an unprecedented tragedy to the Mozambican nation and an irreparable personal loss to each of us.

Despite that enormous loss and the escalation of external aggression against Mozambique in 1986, our country achieved important victories in political and diplomatic fields. Undoubtedly, the most important of these victories was the great success of the second general elections, which represented the culmination vf the process of strengthening national unity and deepening people's democracy in our country.

The year about to begin seems to promise difficuties. It will be yet another year of war and economic hardships. It is, however, a year that promises hope and certainty. It will be a year in which we will actively intensify the struggle to eliminate armed banditry. It will be a year in which we will adopt rather harsh but necessary economic measures. These will create the conditions to rehabilitate our economy and build a better future for our people. The secret for success on these two important fronts depends mainly on the involvement and personal dedication of all of us here, as leaders and cadres of the party, state, and grass root organizations. It depends on our ability to unite, organize, and mobilize the people around the great goals that have been outlined. We say that 1987 will be a year of certainty because we are certain of your involvement and determination and of the enormous creative energy of our people.

We have reasons to be certain of future success. The past 2 months have proved that we can move forward. We have he ability to mobilize and to remain united. We have the ability to compensate for the losses we have sustained. That is why we say that we have trust and are optimists.

We wish you all and your families the continuation of a good festive season and a prosperous and happy new year.

Successes Against 'Bandits' Summarized

MB310751 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0400 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] Our forces killed 457 bandits and captured another 11 in operations carried out in Maputo province over the last 8 months. A communique from the provincial military command issued today also notes that a number of bandits were wounded in the operations. Also captured were over 50 automatic weapons, including 3 60-mm mortars, a large quantity of ammunition, and war materiel. The communique also adds that 30 people who had been kidnapped by the bandits were freed, stressing that the operations continue in different parts of the province to locate, track down, and capture small and isolated groups that have turned into roving bands without command.

120 Reported Killed in Nov

MB302015 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1730 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] The Mozambique Armed Forces-FPLM killed 120 armed bandits in Ulongue, headquarters of Angonia District in Tete Province, when a large bandit group led by mercenaries attacked the town in November. One of the three mercenaries killed was hit by shrapnel from a B-11 recoilless gun fired by an FPLM unit protecting Ulongue. According to the Angonia district commissioner, who was quoted by AIM, the bandits and mercenaries intended to occupy the town, from where they would carry out new destabilising actions. During the raid, the armed bandits managed to destroy a number of installations, including the executive council building. They also plundered medicines from the local hospital.

Manica Residents Need Emergency Food Aid

MB291350 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1030 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] More than 250,000 residents of Manica Province, most of whom have been released from the captivity of the armed bandits or repatriated from the Republic of Zimbabwe, need emergency food aid. This was disclosed to our correspondent in that province by the delegate of the Department of Prevention and Combat Against Natural Disasters. The source added that the northen districts of Guro and Barue, where more than 700 peasants had been released from the captivity of armed bandits, need emergency aid in the form of food, clothing, and tools.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO Claims South African Helicopter Downed

MB310927 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] The combatants of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, armed wing of SWAPO, shot down an helicopter of the South African forces in the region of Ondangua in Namibia. A SWAPO communique issued in Luanda yesterday stated that the helicopter's crew died and the helicopter was destroyed [words indistinct]. The helicopter was shot down while it was trying to leave [words indistinct] during a skirmish between South African troops and SWAPO combatants. The communique from the South-West Africa People's Organization, SWAPO, concludes by saying that with this helicopter, it has raised to seven the number of South African aircraft downed this year by SWAPO.

SOUTH AFRICA

Journalists Groups, PFP Condemn Ngcobo Detention

MB301533 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1522 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 30 SAPA — The detention of *Business Day* reporter Sipho Ngcobo has been condemned by the International Federation of Journalists [IFJ], the Media Workers Association of South Africa [MWASA] and the Progressive Federal Party.,

Ngcobo was arrested at work yesterday.

An IFJ executive member, Mr Thami Mazwai, said the fact that Ngcobo was arrested "right in the newsroon, while he was doing

his job, portrays the extent to which there is no press freedom in this country."

"This shows the absolute power the police have over the black community.

"The IFJ is shocked at this and will do all in its power to ensure that Ngcobo is either released or charged."

A spokesman for MWASA, of which Ngcobo is a member, also condemned the detention, saying the country was sinking "deeper and deeper into totalitarianism."

The PFP MP for Gardens, Mr Ken Andrew, said: "The detention without trial of anybody is to be deplored. The detention of a journalist is cause for particular alarm.

"There is every indication that the government is determined to manipulate information and to prevent the public from knowing what is going on in South Africa."

SASJ Demands Release

MB301513 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1508 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 30, SAPA — The detention of *Business Day* reporter Sipho Ngcobo was likely to have a profound effect on journalists in South Africa, the president of the SA Society of Journalists [SASJ], Pat Sidley, said today.

This effect would perhaps be more severe than any of the emergency restrictions, she said in statement released here.

"We can only believe his detention is linked to his work as a journalist and that this is the way in which journalists are likely to be dealt with increasingly in this country," the statement said.

"We do not accept any reason for the detention without trial of anybody and see it as more dangerous when the public is deprived of one of its links through the media to what is going on around them.

"We call for his immediate release."

Police Name SADF Officer Accused of Spying

MB301014 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Police have released the name of a high-ranking SADF officer who is said to have been detained on charges of spying. They say Major Andre Pienaar is being held in terms of Section 29 of the Internal Security Act. He is thought to have been attached to military intelligence.

Buthelezi: Government Offers No Political Hope

MB301421 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1419 GMT 30 Dec 86

[SAPA PR Wire Service; issued by the chief minister's office, Ulundi]

[Text] Ulundi, Tuesday — Unrest in the black townships could not be stilled by any action which the government could take within its present framework of stated aims and objectives, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi said here today.

He told the new United States ambassador to South Africa, Mr Edward Perkins, who was here on a courtesy visit, that there was no administrative remedy to the unrest.

The trouble was fuelled by economic as well as political forces, the KwaZulu chief minister and Inkatha president said.

There was nothing in what the government now said which offered political hope and there was nothing on the economic horizons which promised relief from poverty.

This lack of hope had reached the point where unrest had become a way of life in many black townships. There was even a black sense of excitement — or a hankering after such excitement.

"The pendulum will swing backwards and forwards across the present thresholds of violence, increasing at times and decreasing at others, without anything happening on the threshold itself."

While black politics remained crippled by the lack of basic political freedoms and while leaders like Mr Nelson Mandela and Mr Zeph Mothopeng and other political prisoners remained incarcerated, consensus politics would not evolve.

Chief Buthelezi told Mr Perkins he was pleased that the united States had appointed a black person to the "very difficult task" of ambassador to South Africa.

In a memorandum for their meeting he said that he was not one of those who saw the appointment as a cynical example of tokenism. He saw Mr Perkins's blackness as a distinct asset.

"You are a living symbol of black equality in a multiracial society, and symbolism is important in politics," chief Buthelezi said.

"The symbolism of which I am speaking is just as important in white society as in black society. Let the white man now deal with a black man in the interface between South Africa and the United States. There is an idiom in that dealing which could pay very real dividends.

"Even if we both know that your colour does not shade your humanity and that it does not imbue you with powers or weaknesses, you as a black American in our circumstances will have a diplomatic utility which could well become the envy of your white colleagues."

UDF Issues New Year's Message on Apartheid

MB301634 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1631 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 30 SAPA — The United Democratic Front resolved to intensify its "struggle against apartheid and exploitation" in 1987, the organisation's new year message said today.

"Two states of emergencies and our being declared an affected organisation have thus failed in laying the UDF to rest," the UDF said in a statement in Johannesburg signed by Mr Murphy Morobe, the oraganisation's acting publicity secretary.

It said banning the UDF would not solve the government's problems.

"The UDF is still commited to waging a non-violent struggle against apartheid even as the state seems bent on closing every available legal space.

"In 1987 we expect to see the state trying to stop the UDF through detentions, resctrictions and wholesale harassment."

The UDF said: "With all prospects for 1987 indicating a sharpening edge of resistance and increased repression we in the UDF still abound with optimism about the future of this country.

"The roots of this optimism will certainly grow deeper with the inevitable intensification of the struggle in 1987."

"The new year brings with it an even greater urgency for deeper unity for all peace loving and democractic South Africans."

The UDF would ask workers to join COSATU (Congress of South African Trade Unions).

The UDF supported the call for pupils to return to school and the reopening of schools.

The UDF said white compatriots should abandon apartheid and join "the advancing forces of peace and progress."

"Without their support apartheid cannot continue."

Those sections of the church that were "apologists for racism" were called on to resolve to make 1987 a year in which they were true to the teachings of their faith.

The UDF called on the youth to put their energies into the South African youth congress.

Women should commit themselves to a strong and united federation of South African women, the UDF said.

The business community failed to unequivocaly condemn the state of emergency, the UDF said.

"This places you firmly inside the laager."

The UDF described the imposition of curbs on the media as one of the most desperate acts by the government.

The UDF expected 1987 "to usher in an era of even greater collaboration between the state president (Mr P.W. Botha) and the military."

If 1986 was anyting to go by, the UDF expected greater efforts against it and all "progressive organisations" in 1987.

1986 saw the deaths of leading UDF members and community leaders like Chief Ampie Mayisa of Leandra, the UDF said.

The year saw the detention of thousands of UDF officials and members of its affiliates.

"It has even shown the lowest level apartheid — through the incarceration of hundreds of children — can sink (to)."

UDF Commends Commitment During Campaign

MB301607 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1606 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 30 SAPA — The United Democratic Front commended affiliates today for their commitment to the 10-day period of concern for children in detention and "re-dedication to the struggle against apartheid".

The outcome of the campaign would ensure the UDF started the new year "with confidence and heightened resolve to engage in other campaigns against the system of apartheid," Mr Murphy Morobe, the organisation's acting publicity secretary, said.

There were state attempts to intimidate people and deliberately sow confusion about the 10-day campaign, he alled.

The failed attempts included fake leaflets calling on people not to switch off their lights, the UDF said.

The UDF commended the political discipline shown by thousands of its activists.

Commentary Justifies Need for School Regulations

MB310533 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] People are fed up with the interminable obstructionism of the radical element that has been trying to turn school grounds into arenas of political confrontation through intimidation and violence. This week the *Sowetan* published the results of a street survey in which black parents unanimously demanded a return to normal schooling for their children.

Nobody still believes the stale complaint that the schools unrest is due to the educational authorities neglecting to rectify grievances. In no sector of South African society has more been done in the past two years to identify and resolve through

negotiation the problems that existed in black education. The educational authorities have leaned over backwards to be accommodating, making allowances for unruly behaviour and inviting even the most extreme groups to contribute towards the initiative — for the sake of their children. Where talks have brought to light real problems, corrective action has been taken.

At the same time the program to upgrade the quality of black education has continued, notwithstanding the destructive efforts of the political radicals. More schools have been built, courses for improving teachers' qualifications have been expanded, the provision of books and equipment has been increased. Evidence of the progress is to be seen in the matriculation pass rate for this year. At 52 percent, the pass rate was three percentage points higher than last year's — in spite of the school year having begun late, extended stayaways and intensified efforts by outsiders to replace normal classes with lectures in so-called people's education. Obviously the pass rate would have been even higher had pupils been allowed to devote the full year to their studies and not had to contend with such disruption.

It has become perfectly clear that there is a hard core of people, adults and older teenagers, who, having involved themselves in black education, have not the slightest interest in resolving difficulties and making progress. Their objective is the opposite: to create confrontation and as far as possible incite black youngsters to form a hooligan arm of their revolutionary campaign. The puerile slogan they have coined — Liberation before education — illustrates both their exploitation of youthful naivete and their lack of concern for the real long-term interests of the children.

The past two years have shown that it is futile to try to reason with that politically activist group. The time has come to remove it from the educational milieu — to give the children the opportunity to study which they deserve and without which they cannot hope to achieve their ambitions in life. The children are anxious to be given the opportunity, their parents are demanding it and the educational authorities are determined that they shall have it.

SPCC's Motlana Discusses Back-to-School Call

MB301657 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 30 Dec 86

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Peharps surprisingly, black antiapartheid groups in South Africa are now urging students to go back to school after years of sporadic boycotts and demonstrations. It's surprising because yesterday the government announced new powers to control school syllabuses, to ban pupils, and control their movements. The UDF, the National Education Crisis Committee, NECC, which has apparently gone underground, and the Soweto Parents Crisis Committee, SPCC, are nevertheless telling the kids to get back into the classrooms. On the line to Soweto, Julian Borja asked Dr Motlana of the SPCC why.

[Begin recording] [Motlana] It was never the intention that children should stay out of school forever. The aim was to pressurize the department, the government into instituting certain fundamental changes. We know we have not succeeded in achieving this, but an additional reason for staying away in 1986 was to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the students uprising of 1976. And having achieved this there is a general feeling that the children should go back to school.

[Borja] But, from the point of view of putting pressure on the department of education, it has obviously been a failure. In fact, the Department of Education has put even more restrictions on education in the townships.

[Motlana] That is true. The department is behaving incredibly stupidly. We believe that these late restrictions are very provocative and may in fact lead to even more boycotts.

[Borja] Do you think if you issue a call now for the students to go back to school, they are going to listen to you?

[Motlana] Well, unlike very many organizations in South Africa that simply issued blanket calls for the students to go back to school, we in the Soweto Parents Crisis Committee have had joint meetings with the local students organizations. Our statement on Monday was issued in conjuction with the students. We have no doubt at all that it is the feeling among the students themselves that they should go back to school. We believe, therefore, that in fact they will go back. Our only fear is that if the government persists with some of these stupid restrictions, they may not stay there very long.

[Borja] It has been very hard to get hold of members of the National Education Crisis Committee, NECC. Does that mean that the NECC has gone underground?

[Motlana] Many of them are in fact in detention. I do believe that the remaining members — and I'm not sure who remains outside at this moment — that they probably have gone underground. But as an organization the NECC has ceased to exist, but that doesn't mean that it has ceased to do its work because I do believe some of them are still outside. But I mean if you go to their offices in Johannesburg, their offices are shut. [end recording]

PAC Condemns Tightening of State of Emergency

MB301727 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] The PAC of South Africa has condemned the recent tightening of the state of emergency by the Pretoria regime. The PAC secretary for publicity and information, Comrade Edwin Makhosi, told the ZBC that the racist Pretoria regime wants to create a [words indistinct] kind of education [words indistinct] and another for blacks and coloreds. Comrade Makhosi said the apartheid regime has failed to control the situation in South Africa despite its harsh legislation and use of sophisticated weapons against the black majority. He said the racists' clampdown on the media and education will not weaken the revolutionary spirit of black people in South Africa.

Regulations Having 'Profound Effect' on Unions
MB301717 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 30 Dec 86 p 9

[By Sheryl Raine]

[Text] The new emergency regulations are already having a profound effect on the union movement and could become the main issue of industrial conflict next year, says the independent Labour Monitoring Group (LMG).

In its last report for 1986 on the impact of the state of emergency on industrial relations, the LMG noted mounting pressure against the labour movement over the Christmas period.

Pressure included the new emergency regulations, increased detentions of unionists, vigilante attacks against the Metal and Allied Workers' Union (MAWU) in Natal, as well as attempted deportations of top union officials of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union (CWIU).

The combination of these actions amounted to a new phase of pressure on the union movement under the emrgency and, if the pressures continued, they were likely to become the main issues of industrial conflict early next year.

The LMG said although the new regulations had been aimed mainly at the alternative media, community organisations, the End Conscription Campaign and the Christmas Against the Emergency Campaign, the union movement had also been affected.

The redefinition of "subversive statements" in the regulations included a ban on calling for illegal strikes or consumer boycotts. This had already affected union activities, said the LMG.

"The Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers union reports that it has been unable to call for a consumer boycott during the current legal wage strike by its members at nearly all OK Bazaars stores across the country.

"The Council of Unions of SA says its affiliate, the Transport and Allied Workers' Union, has been unable to call for a boycott of PUTCO [Public Utility Transport Corporation] buses during a dispute with the company over retrenchments.

"Although nearly all strikes in South Africa are technically illegal, the possibility of strike action has become a regular part of the repertoire of union organisers and shop stewards during industrial bargaining.

"Unions point out that such talk, even if made in a company boardroom, could open officials to charges of 'subversion' and the NUM has already begun briefing its officials and shaft stewards on the language they can use during negotiations. Other unions expect the regulations to pose major problems when they resume work in the new year."

Lawyers for one union have been quick to point out that the regulations clash with the provisions of the new labor regulation bill which allows for primary boycotts during an industrial dispute.

The LMG also criticised employer bodies for failing to speak out against the latest emergency regulations imposed on December 12.

Except for employer representations to the Minister of Home Affairs about the deportation of unionists, the LMG was not aware of any major statement by employer bodies criticising the new emergency regulations or other action taken recently against trade unions.

This was in contrast to the beginning of the emergency (on June 12) when some employer bodies and major industrialists made a number of statements pointing to the damaging effects of the emergency on industrial stability.

"Representatives of the retail industry were the most outspoken at the time. OK Bazaars has now been noticeably silent on the detention of shop stewards during the current legal strike.

"It would appear that the limited opposition by management to the emergency has now given way to complacency or even acceptance of it."

Because of various difficulties, figures of unionists in detention contained in the report could be higher than reflected.

The LMG said 45 unionists were known to have been detained under emergency and security regulations in the last four weeks.

At least 614 unionists had been held since the start of the emergency. At least 2,000 workers were held in mass detentions during various disputes. About 256 unionists had been released from detention but 358 were still being held.

The LMG expressed concern about vigilante attacks early in December on Mawu members and their relatives at Mpophomeni near Howick in Natal. Four people were killed.

The attempted deportation of four unionists and a professor of history and specialist in the labor field, Professor Philip Bonner, was another pressure exerted on the labour movement.

Although two NUM officials and Professor Bonner had their deportation orders withdrawn, the minister of Home Affairs has warned he may reimpose them after hearing representations.

Mrs Chris Bonner, Trnasvaal secretary of the CWIU, for whom a deportation order was filled out but never served, is still in a precarious position. Representations are being sent to the Minister on her behalf.

49 Percent of Blacks Believe 1987 Will Be Worse
MB301416 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1407 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 29, SAPA — Only 18 per cent of blacks expect 1987 to be better than the past year, compared with

41 per cent of whites.

This emerges from the findings of the latest Markinor Gallup poll, conducted by Markinor among 1,000 whites and 800 black urban adults.

The study is part of an international year-end poll in more than 35 countries by gallup international.

The report says: "Blacks are understandably gloomy, with 49 per cent believing that conditions will deteriorate, 18 per cent that they will stay the same and 18 per cent that they will improve."

Some 19 per cent of whites think conditions will remain as they are, 30 per cent think things will get worse and 10 per cent say they don't know.

Both blacks and whites are "slightly more confident of prospects for next year than they were 12 months ago," says the report. This is "despite the country's severe socio-political and economic problems.

"At the end of 1985, 40 per cent of whites and 53 per cent of blacks expected conditions to get worse."

1,068 Emigrate in October While 628 Immigrate

MB301934 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1915 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Figures released by the Central Statistical Services in Pretoria show that 1,068 people left South Africa during October this year. By comparison only 628 people settled in the country during this period. During the first 10 months of the year, almost 6,000 people settled in South Africa while almost 12,000 left the country.

PUTCO Considering Further Cutbacks in Soweto

MB310645 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0620 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg Dec 31 SAPA — PUTCO [Public Utility Transport Corporation] would consider further retrenchments if the boycott of buses in Soweto continued in the new year, a company spokesman, Mr Pat Rogers, said yesterday.

He also confirmed that a bus was set alight and several others damaged at the Baragwanath terminus in Soweto on Monday evening.

Mr Rogers said that only the Soweto operation was affected by the boycott and if it continued, "we will look at the possibility of further retrenchments." "As a result of the boycott we are monitoring the passenger demand. By about January 24, we will have to make hard decisions about whether passenger demand has increased and act accordingly." Many PUTCO workers were retrenched about a month ago when the boycott came into effect as a result of a 17 per cent increase in fares.

Mr Rogers said the boycott had meant additional travelling costs for many Soweto commuters, "some of whom still make use of other PUTCO services on the outskirts of Johannesburg to reach their final destination." Commuters were paying substantially more to get to and from work because they had been forced ot use two or three different modes of transport. He said the company had recently reduced its bus service considerably in several areas because of lack of demand for transport over the festive season. "Factories and schools have closed and the demand in Soweto is pushed down further by the boycott. We are looking at increasing the number of buses if we see the demand growing.

"Because the service has been reduced so considerably, we also see a possibility of problems with the transporting of scholars should there be a full turnout when the schools open on January 7. Scholars are an uneconomical operation as their fares are considerably below the economic fare tariff. We lose R16 million a year carrying scholars. We have been having negotiations with the government for three years to obtain a subsidy. But we have been unable to get it. So we will be unable to put on special buse to carry them at a loss in 1987," he said. He said in a statement that the company carried 20 million scholars a year.

No Need Forseen For Wheat Imports Next Year

MB301301 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] The latest wheat crop estimate of 2.134 million tons indicates that South Africa will not have to import any wheat in the new year. The assistant general manager of the wheat board, Mr (Andries Lidenberg) says he does not foresee the necessity for wheat imports at this stage. However, the final crop figure will be available only at the end of February when harvesting has been completed. South Africa's domestic wheat consumption at this stage is about 2.1 million tons a year. Although the present estimate does not indicate a record crop, it is considerably more than the previous crop of 1.68 million tons. This year about 300,000 tons of wheat had to be imported to meet demand.

Mr (Lidenberg) said that according to the latest estimate, the wheat crop in the Free State had nearly doubled from 446,000 tons to 990,000 tons. Natal's estimated crop of 40,000 tons was also higher than the previous 31,000, but the Transvaal crop estimate of 165,000 tons is lower than the previous crop of 240,000 tons. The Cape's estimated crop of 39,000 tons is also lower than the previous crop of 963,000 tons. [numbers as heard]

The gross producer price for wheat in the current season announced recently by the minister of agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, is 375 rand a ton for class A1 wheat. This is 50 rand more than the previous price from which 15 rand a ton would come from the wheat board stabilization fund.

Commentary Views Status of Angola Conflict

MB301146 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Station commentary: "Angola: Its Self-Inflicted problems"]

[Text] Such is the level of ignorance in the West about what is really happening in southern Africa that Angola's foreign minister, Mr Afonso Van-Dunem, can get away with ridiculous claims instead of being laughed out of town. He said in a radio interview in Lisbon that UNITA was not in control in any part of Angola and that Angola still needed help from abroad because of the threat from South Africa. Anyone knowing anything about Angola's history since independence 11 years ago will know that both these claims are totally false.

UNITA, in fact, controls more than a third of the country and is active in most of it. It is UNITA, not South Africa, that poses a threat to the MPLA government in Luanda. It should be remembered that the MPLA seized power in Angola in violation of an agreement to form a government of national unity with UNITA and the FNLA [Angolan National Liberation Front] pending general elections. These elections have never been held and the only reason the MPLA is in power in that it is being propped up by a massive force of Cuban troops and Soviet advisers and weapons. This foreign aid is necessary to protect the MPLA government from UNITA, not South Africa.

South Africa has admitted giving certain humanitarian and material aid to UNITA because South-West Africa/Namibia would be the next target if the Soviet Union and its Cuban surrogate force ever succeed in totally subjugating Angola. South Africa's involvement in the Angolan situation stems from the fact that southern Angola is the base from which SWAPO terrorists launch their attacks on South-West Africa/Namibia. While this persists there can be no question of free and fair elections being held in South-West Africa/Namibia leading to independence for the territory. In addition to subjugating the people of Angola, the Soviet and Cuban forces are also aiding SWAPO terrorists in their bid to install a Marxist government in Windhoek. South Africa cannot stand idly by and allow this to happen.

It is not only in South Africa's interests that Soviet plans for the region be thwarted; it is in the interests of the entire subcontinent. It must be clearly seen that the Soviet Union is the destabilizing force in southern Africa. No amount of lies and disinformation can be allowed to cloud this issue.

Information Bureau Issues 30 Dec Unrest Report

MB310726 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0724 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria Dec 31 SAPA — Following is the Bureau for Information's daily unrest report:

"Unrest report 00h01 to 24h00 (30 December)

"Isolated incidents of stoning and malicious damage to property were the only unrest-related incidents reported during the abovementioned 24-hour period.

"Only 3 police-districts were affected and little damage was caused.

"The Bureau for Information duty officer from Friday 2 January to Thursday 8 January will be Adriana Andersen. After hours telephone number 83-4007 or radio call 28-4800 code 126/1.

"The Bureau for Information wishes all a happy and prosperous new year."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

MB310506 [Editorial report]

CITIZEN: Police 'Unsung Heroes'

The members of the South African police are "the unsung heroes of the fight against the revolutionaries," Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 30 December says in an editorial on page 6. They are "reviled by the radicals and those who support them, yet the shield behind which we can all sleep safely." "Sadly, the fact that such men may lose their lives at the hands of ANC terrorists does not shock those who prefer to talk to the ANC rather than oppose them." At this time of year, all policemen should be remembered with gratitude, including "the Black policemen who, despite losing their homes and possessions in fires set by radicals, remain dedicated to the force."

CITIZEN on Australian, Canadian Visa Policies

Commenting on obstacles imposed by the Australian and Canadian Governments on South Africans seeking visas to visit those countries in a second editorial on the same page, *The Citizen* notes that "good or bad, pro-apartheid or anti-apartheid, all will suffer." "What does our government intend to do about Australians and Canadians who want to visit South Africa? Impose similar restraints or turn the other cheek?"

STAR on New School Regulations

Although the Department of Education and Training "is obviously unhappy with the boycotts and disruptions which plagued many schools all year," "for the authorities to resort to a state of emergency specifically for the classroom indicates a desperation and lack of understanding that could hamper, not promote, the department's objective," Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 30 December says in a page 8 editorial. However, "first reaction from some influential black organisations" to the new measures "has been positive: attacking the new regulations, they have nevertheless repeated their calls for a return to school." "Despite the big stick being waved so damagingly by cold authority, all black people concerned about their children and the future should join the back-to-school campaign."

BUSINESS DAY on 'Victims of Disinvestment'

Some U.S. companies decided to disinvest after "the failure of the SA government to give them meaningful reforms with which to justify their presence here," Johannesburg *Business Day* in English says in an editorial on page 4. "For others, the crunch came when new investments were banned with effect from the middle of last month. Now still more will decide to leave rather than become entangled in endless bureaucratic regulations governing what is and is not investment, repair or expansion of their

SA subsidiaries." With the new U.S. legislation on doing business in South Africa, "the U.S. firms concerned will certainly lose. SA as a whole will lose, but not the apartheid rulers at whom all of this is supposedly aimed. The economy as a whole will suffer, and with it employment levels in general and the jobs of those formerly employed at U.S. firms in particular. To the victims of apartheid the U.S. — not SA — is no deliberately adding the victims of disinvestment. the difference is not as great as Congress may suppose."

CAPE TIMES on Beach Conflict

"In spite of the huge crowds on Peninsula beaches over the Christmas weekend, racial mixing took place in a remarkable atmosphere of amity and tolerance," Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 29 December says in a page 8 editorial. "Unfortunately the Cape experience has not been repeated at all coastal cities. On the Natal coast, particularly at Amanzimtoti, violence broke out among white and black bathers. But according to reports, the whites involved were members of the racist Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging [Afrikaner Resistance Movement] who appeared to go out of their way to seek confrontation with black bathers. One thing is sure in South Africa: if you look for racial confrontation you will find it. A tiny minority of people can spoil it for the peace-loving and law-abiding majority. The appropriate response of the authorities is clear. They must not try to appease the bigots by reimposing segregation, but crack down instead with the utmost vigour on any form of violence or anti-social behaviour, regardless of the race of the culprits."

SOWETAN Condemns School Regulations

"While we do, in our most charitable moments, believe that the Government is as anxious as all of us to see black education revert to normality," the new emergency regulations imposed on black schools are "a monumental blunder," Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 30 December says in its front-page editorial. "We urge the Government strongly to consider scrapping it before school term." "We are almost certain that these regulations will provoke what we fear most, a repetition of what has been going on in black schooling since 1976. We cannot let that happen without saying something despite the face that we are severely restricted from speaking our minds more plainly."

'Focus' on Reality of Apartheid

In the "Focus" column on page 4, *Sowetan* writer Mathatha Tsedu recounts his experiences over the Christmas holidays which showed that "apartheid is alive and well in this country." In one incident, he and his family were prevented from swimming at the side of a Transvaal dam used by whites, while in a second incident he and his family were not allowed to use the showers after visiting an unsegregated Natal Beach. "The two incidents made apartheid concrete for our children. They now understand precisely what the struggle for liberation is all about. After each incident we had to explain as best we could what had happened. So in a way, the two incidents, both white-designed, have conscientised our families even more. They move our families' understanding of the struggle in South Africa from the theoretical to the practical."

TRANSVALER: Delicate Racial Balance

Pretoria *Die Transvaler* in Afrikaans on 29 December says in an editorial on page 12 that "how senstive the balance that assures good relations between groups really is is shown by how easily violence between groups can flare up to disturb that equilibrium." Following the disturbances on Natal beaches, it notes there will be voices that will regard the violence this Christmas as a reason to keep the races apart. "We must accept that the various groups within South Africa must live, work, and play together." To make this possible there should be greater understanding of one another and more patience in handling cultural differences.

VADERLAND: Frontline Sanctions Wavering

Johannesburg *Die Vaderland* in Afrikaans on 29 December, in a page 14 editorial, remarks that the "tragic event in which two SAP officers were killed in a terrorist follow-up operation casts a darker cloud on the Southern African situation." The latest event happened against the background of sanctions that the Frontline States want to impose on South Africa at the end of the year. Hesitation about their scope is apparent ever since Zambian food riots over maize price increases. "Sensible leadership on the part of the Frontline States is imperative at present."

U.S. Economic, Political Prospects Not Good

Johannesburg *Die Vaderland* in Afrikaans on 30 December says in an editorial on page 10 that "prospects for 1987 for the United States are not rosy." On the political front the Democrats dominate both houses of Congress, and the possibility of effective administration is scant. "Indications are that they will hinder the President in many policy decisions." The Iran arms scandal affects both the Republicans' chances in the presidential elections and America's image abroad. Many see the attempt to restore relations with Iran as a lame effort to salvage something from the debacle with the shar of Iran. "It is perhaps on the economic front that the threat is greatest." Chrysler Corporation's Mr Lee Iacocca refers to the astronomical budget deficit and the extent to which other nations are entering the world markets.

BEELD Experts Fresh Goals

Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 30 December says in a page 10 editorial that "to set demands and expectations for the new year can be a test of good leadership." If South Africans want to enter 1987 with balanced demands and expectations then there is hope. "We find such balance in Chief Buthelezi's message." Calling for hope, he says: "Hope is necessary and black politics aimed at suppressing hope and encouraging violent confrontation must be condemned." Indeed, so too should white politics which encourages conflict be condemned. In 1986, the world condemned white South Africans as if they are supppressors and racists. To deal lightly with the faults of one group and mercilessly with those of another is to make other parties afraid to negotiate. concluding, it notes: "from our side we shall do everything possible in 1987 to promote reform and keep whites away from the path to confrontation, but we expect the same from black leaders. We hope that the Tutu's, the UDF leaders, and others understand."

ZIMBABWE

Reportage on Mugabe-Kaunda 30 Dec Talks

Delegations Arrive, Talks Begin

MB301232 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, arrived in Kariba this morning for talks with the Zambian president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda. Comrade Mugabe is accompanied by the minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Witness Mangwende; the minister of state responsible for security, Comrade Emmerson Munagagwa; the minister of trade and commerce, Comrade Oliver Munyaradzi; and the minister of transport, Comrade Herbert Ushewokunze. Dr Kaunda is accompanied by Zambian prime minister, Mr Kebby Musokotwane, and the minister of commerce and industry, Mr Kalaluka.

The two leaders are reviewing developments between the two countries and within the southern african region. Speaking during the opening session of the meeting, President Kaunda said Zimbabwe and Zambia are holding the discussions from a position of (?strength), since the two countries are (?held) together by a strong history and common cause. The meeting is a followup to last week's meeting of leaders of the Frontline States held in the Zambian capital, Lusaka.

Talks Conclude

MB301632 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, and the Zambian president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, have ended their 1-day meeting in Kariba. The two leaders [words indistinct] on the existing economic relations between their two countries. In a joint communique read to newsmen by the minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Witness Mangwende, the two leaders said they would want to see stringent [words indistinct] in lessening their independence on South Africa. One aspect of [words indistinct] in the field of transport. Both leaders condemned the Pretoria regime for imposing sanctions against its neighbors. They also called on the Botha regime to dismantle the evil policy of apartheid and the notorious state of emergency, as well as lifting the press ban.

The two leaders reaffirmed their call for comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa and commended multinational companies which have pulled out of that country. They also expressed outrage at the violations of Swaziland's territorial intergrity by South Africa recently. Both men condemned the destabilization of Angola by South Africa and the United States through their support of UNITA bandits.

RSA Sanctions 'Grave Threat'

MB301813 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] The president, Comrade Kaunda, and Prime Minister Robert Mugabe today accused South Africa of having imposed and declared sanctions against Zambia and Zimbabwe. In a communique released at the end of their 1-day summit at the [name indistinct] resort on Zimbabwe's side of Lake Kariba, the two leaders said that sanctions posed a grave threat to their economies and would have to be checked by enhanced economic cooperation. The leaders stressed the need for closer coordination and more expansive and stronger linkages between the economies of Zimbabwe and Zambia with a view of lessening dependence on the South African economy, but at a much faster rate.

Mugabe Outlines Advantages of 1-Party State

MB310659 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has said a 1-party state in Zimbabwe is not aimed at throttling opposition but at avoiding bickering and unnecessary quarreling for power. In an interview with *Police* Magazine, Comrade Mugabe said a 1-party state is a traditional system of oneness in Zimbabwe and the African society. He said a multiparty state is a strange phenomenon to Zimbabwe because of its divisive tendencies. The prime minister pointed out that Zimbabwe will develop faster under a 1-party state. Comrade Mugabe, however, made it clear that Zimbabwe is not in a big hurry to bring about a 1-party state.

Matabeleland Elections Postponed Over Security

MB310721 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] The minister of local government, rural and urban development, Comrade Ernest Chikowore, has said district council elections in some parts of Matabeleland North are likely to be postponed until the security situation has improved. Comrade Chikowore told *The Herald* that he has received reports that dissidents have intensified their ccampaign against elections in that area. He said the worst affected areas are Hwange, Lupane, Binga, and Nkayi.